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GEORGE A. PILKINGTON, ESQ., J.P.,
[THE FIRST MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR SOUTHPORT.]

ANNALS
OF
SOUTHPORT
AND DISTRICT.

A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF
NORTH MEOLS,
A.D. 1086 TO 1886.

BY
E. BLAND.

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TO

GEORGE A. PILKINGTON, ESQ., J.P.,

FIRST MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE

SOUTHPORT

DIVISION OF LANCASHIRE,

THIS BOOK IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.

Southern Bk. Co. 42-00

P R E F A C E .

"IF any there be which are desirous to be strangers in their owne soile and forrainers in their owne citie—they may so continue and therein flatter themselves ; for such I have not written these lines nor taken these paines," wrote Camden in the introduction to his *Britannia*. But I cannot think there are many in the beautiful town of Southport who "are desirous to be strangers in their own soil." The Annals of Southport have been written with the conviction that few things so deeply and permanently influence the human head and heart as the historical associations of *home*. Persons in high places have sneered at the idea of North Meols having any history. I am of opinion that the following pages will show how mistaken those persons are. Hitherto no attempt has been made to publish the history of North Meols. Being out of the beaten track, none of the ancient writers went to the trouble of visiting this "bald"—the word Meols, in the ancient Celtic means "bald"—place. Odd items in old books show that the place was known to some extent before the Conquest, and possibly further research may bring to light additional information as to the past history of the parish. When the Manor was given to Roger de Poictou, he found a church already established here, and he gave it to the

Monks of Lancaster. As will readily be understood, the facts recorded in the following pages have been found scattered about in documents of all kinds, in various parts of this and the adjoining counties.

The valuation of *Mele* in Domesday-book is above the average of the neighbouring places, and soon after the Conquest the Manor was given to Richard Fitz-Utred, probably a descendant of the original Saxon holder Utred, of King Edward's day. Previous to the Reformation, the history of the parish, as I have been able to record it, is only of a skeleton nature. Several passages, however, in these "Annals" tend to give the reader an impression that the Church living was a somewhat valuable one. Such men as Bishop Stanley were scarcely likely to take the incumbency unless the emoluments were of a respectable character. Until last century, when Rodger Hesketh married Miss Fleetwood, the Church living was in other hands than the Lordship of the Manor; but there is, in the Palatine Court Records, plenty of evidence that the parsons were the influential men of the parish. In 1464 we find the rector as a mortgagee of the estate, though he was but a minor ecclesiastic from Evesham Abbey. In 1551, the last (probably) of the Roman Catholic rectors, one Lawrence Waterward, entered an action for trespass against the Lords of the Manor, and three years later the first Protestant rector also laid claim to certain rights against the patrons of the Church and the Lords of the Manor. In 1580, Campion the Jesuit visited the parish on his mission, and twelve years later there was at Meols Hall "one Gabriell Shawe." There have been various rectors, who seem to

have been noteworthy men, and, perhaps, one fact as noteworthy as many has been the longevity of some of them. As an instance, from 1748 to 1876, there were only three rectors of the parish.

Without the kind assistance of many friends, it would have been impossible to produce this work. Its defects are all my own. Whatever merits it may have, I can only say that any other writer, with the same opportunities, might have produced it as well. I have not attempted a work of great literary ability—my one object has been to make known what I could of the past history of the neighbourhood in which I have lived nearly all my life, to collect the facts, put them in order, and leave the reader to form his own idea as to the merits or demerits of the book. The following items are strictly bare statements of facts, without any expression of my own opinions—facts, with about two exceptions, taken from the dry records of the past—from the Palatine Court Records, Church and Cathedral books, &c.

My thanks are due to so many persons, that it would be impossible for me to particularise them. I thank one and all for their kind assistance. I have had every assistance possible from the various libraries and custodians of books and documents necessary for my purpose. I must, however, pay a well-merited tribute to the late Mr. E. E. Holden for his invaluable assistance in the initial stages of the work. His splendid education and his extensive local knowledge were entirely at my service ; his death was a sad blow to myself, along with many others.

E. B.

Southport,

October, 1887.

ERRATA.

- Page 16, line 4, for "Seven" read "Seventeen."
,, 31, line 26, for "Condray" read "Coudray."
,, 37, line 14, for "Suttton" read "Sutton."
,, 42, in footnote, for "or Roger," read "for Roger."
,, 45, line 11, for "until his death in 1778" read "until 1769, when he
was presented to the living of Bispham."
,, 136, line 5, for "J. J. Nunneley" read "J. I. Nunneley."
,, 158, line 15, before "Gilbert Harrison" read "John Holt."
,, 165, line 20, for "Greedwood" read "Greenwood."
,, 117, 146, 147, and 171, for *Visitor* read *Visiter*.

Annals of Southport & District.

A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF NORTH MEOLS.

A.D. 1086 TO 1886.

1086—Domesday book, which was finished in this year, says "*Mele* was held [from King Edward the Confessor] by three Thanes, for three Manors. There is half a hide, it is worth eight shillings" [Kings rent]. "In that part of Lancashire between the Ribble and the Mersey six caracutes make a hide ; a caracute being eight oxgangs, or about 100 acres." "Edelmundus held Esmedune [now Liverpool]. It is worth thirty-two pence." "All these Thanes were accustomed to pay two ores of pennies* for each caracute of land, and by custom they built the king's houses with their appurtenances as the Villiens did ; and at the fisheries and at the hays and stands (the fences and stalls) in the woods ; and whosoever did not attend this service when he ought was fined two shillings, and afterwards was obliged to attend and to work till the business was completed ; every one of them, moreover,

* An "Ora " equalled 20 pence.

sent their reapers for one day in August to cut the king's corn, and if he failed he was amerced in two shillings."

William the Conqueror had before this date given the Honour of Lancaster to Roger de Poitou, son of Roger Montgomery, Earl of Arundel and Shrewsbury. Earl Roger in his turn had made Warinus Bushi or Bussel Baron of Penwortham, and this Warin held *Mele* along with other estates. In the interval between the Conquest and the completion of the Domesday Survey, the lands had been forfeited by the defection of Earl Roger, who had given the tithes of *Moles* to the Monks of Lancaster, but this grant seems to have been vitiated by Roger's defection, for during the reign of William the Conqueror we find that Warin Bussel conferred the manor of Penwortham and the *Chapel of Mele*, with all its appurtenances, on the Abbey of Evesham. It has been thought extraordinary that churches and lands in Lancashire should be attached to a religious house so far away as Evesham in Worcestershire, but it is explained by the fact that Warin Bussel had espoused a lady Matilda, who had extensive territorial possessions in Evesham. The grant was made on the distinct condition that three monks and a chaplain should daily perform Divine offices at Penwortham. This led to the building of Penwortham Priory, but the records of Evesham Abbey prove that the monks looked upon it as a punishment to be sent to Penwortham.

1102—William Rufus had restored Roger de Poitou his possessions, but in this year they were again forfeited through Roger taking part in the rebellion of his brother,

the Earl of Shrewsbury. The inheritance of Roger was given to Stephen, afterwards King of England, but the Barons appointed by Roger retained their estates.

1113—Richard Bussel, second Baron of Penwortham, confirmed his father's gifts to the Abbey of Evesham, granting to that institution "the Chapel of *Moles*, with all its appurtenances and 2/-" Soon afterwards Albert Bussel, third Baron and brother to Richard, further confirmed the grant, giving "the whole Chapel of *Meoles*, with all its appurtenances and one-fourth of the fishing." Hugh Bussel, the fourth Baron, also confirmed the gifts of his father, uncle, and grandfather.

1189-99—In the reign of Richard I. Hugh Bussel granted "the whole of *Normoles*" to Richard Fitz-Utred, probably a descendent of the Utred of Domesday book.

1199-1216—The Manor of *Nortmelis* was held by Robert de Meolis, son of Richard Fitz-Utred, in the reign of King John.

1203—Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, in 1293, claimed (amongst many other things) "under a charter produced, and dated 4 John, the wreck of the sea in his Manors of Penwortham in Laylandshire, *Northmelis*, and Wydnes in Derbieshire, and in Newton, Freckelton, and Warton in Amundernesse." Verdict for the Earl.

—In 14 Henry III. John de Farinton, son of William de Meles, married Avicia, daughter of Robert Bussel, Baron of Penwortham, who received as a free gift, a marriage portion of one moiety of the Manor of Leyland. Worden or Wearden Hall, the ancient seat of the Faringtons, descended from this John de Farinton, whose

grandfather, Hugh de Meolis, was living at the time of the Conquest. The family continued in Leyland in uninterrupted male line for twenty-five generations, until the death, in 1848, of James Nowell Farington, Esq. In 22 Richard II., John of Gaunt, and William de Farinton, held the manor in moieties.

1217—Early in the reign of Henry III., William de Koudre, son and heir of Robert de Meolis, “held the fourth part of a knight’s fee in *Nortmelis*, of the Earl of Lincoln.” (Five hides made a knight’s fee.)

1224—Robert de Coudray was this year granted a right of market at *Melys*. He was succeeded by his son, William Fitz-William, whose eldest son was Madoc de Aghton. In 1285, “Walter, son of Madoc de Aghton,” appears as witness to a church deed (*vide* 1377).

1278—Breck-en-le-Dale (Birkdale) was at this time held by Sir Robert Blundell, of Crosby, the first bearing that name. He was the son of Sir Adam de Aynolesdale (Ainsdale), and was descended from Osbert de Aynolesdale, father of Robert to whom King John, when Earl of Morton (1155) gave Great Crosby, confirming the gift when he came to the throne. Sir Adam was the father of Sir Robert Blundell, thus showing a generation earlier than the Blundells of Ince. The Rev. Thomas Ellison Gibson is of opinion that Sir Osbert must have belonged to the Norman family of Blundell, and, for a time, to have relinquished the name on acquiring the Manor of Aynolesdale.

1291—*North Meols* does not appear in the *valor* of Pope Nicholas, taken this year, but, being a parcel of a religious

house, was probably included in the limits of the parish of Halsall. This idea is confirmed to a certain extent by the fact that in old deeds the Church of *North Meols* is described as the *Chapel* of St. Cuthbert, whilst Halsall Church is at the same time called the *Church* of St. Cuthbert.

1292—Nicholas Blundell claimed to have the “wreck of the sea at Aymulnedale (Ainsdale), which his ancestors had possessed from time immemorial,” but the verdict was for the king.

1295-6—In the compotus of the lands of Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, from 29th Sept., 1295, to 29th Sept., 1296, appears the following: “Fishery of *Northmeles* xxvjs viijd; Rent of Robert de Meles viijs jd; Rent of *Northmeles* 11th November ijs; custody of land and heir of Richard de Stockport vijs viijd.

1300—North Meols: An. [no] 1300, Patron [the] Ab[bot] of Evesham. Ms. Hulm. ex *Cartul Ep. Cov. et Litchf.*

1305—Robert, son of Adam, receiver of Cliderhou, in rendering his compotus [to the Earl of Lincoln] from March 30th, 1305, to 29 Sept., 1305, says, “Fishery of *Northmeles* xxvjs viijd; Robert de Northmeles viijs jd ob; Rent of *Northmeles* ijs; custody of the land and heir of Richard de Stokeport, for Birkdale viijs viijd.”

1311—Feby. 16th. The great de Lacy inquisition, when it was found that “Alan de *Mels* payed to the said Earl yearly viijs jd; by custom the said Earl had an Ancient Rent in the Town of *Mels*, yearly worth ijs; the Prior of Penwortham held of the said Earl an Ofgang of Land in

Mels by the service of 1-64th of a knight's fee and a rent of jd ob q."

1311—From inquisitions held in this and the two following centuries, it appears that the Lords of this Manor held land in Barton-juxta-Halsall. There is no definite record of how they became possessed of it, but we find that in the year 1311 there was living Margarie, widow of John de *Meles*. She was the daughter of Robert Goch (or Gow), second son of Richard Blundell, of "Hynes and Barton." As this Richard is the last of the Blundells described as of "Barton," it appears very likely that Robert Goch had succeeded to this portion of his father's estate, and that it had descended to his only child Margarie, who in the year 1292 and thereabouts, along with her husband, John de *Meles*, re-leased to William Blundell several plots of land in Ince.

1353—Thomas, son of Walter de Aghton, conveyed to Richard de Lythyrland a certain meadow called "le Platte Medowe," in "Villa de Aghton," for a term of nine years. The seal is that of the judge, and bears the device of a man's head, surrounded by the inscription REVELARI LEGISLANDO, which, freely translated, means "what manner of man I am is to be discovered from my decrees." The witnesses are neighbours, Gilbert de Scarisbreck, Richard le Walsche, Henry son of Simon de Bykerstath, Robert de Lydiate, and John le Walsche, clericus; the last named probably being the clerk of the court and not a priest.

—This year, in an action tried in the Duchy Court at Preston as to the right of fishing at Merton Meer, Le

Wyke, and *Northmeles*—Richard Aghton v. Roger Boudesson and John Steele,—the defendants “justified” in right of William de Heskeyth, Thomas de Litherland, the Prior of Burscough, the Abbot of Cockersand and Richard de Aghton.

1376—Ince first styled “Ines-Blundell” by John Blundell of Ines.

1377—William Fitz-William (*vide* 1224) or his son Madoc, seems to have become possessed of the estate of Aughton, for during the fourteenth century we find the family described as “de Aghton” in various documents, and it is certain that for several centuries the two parishes had an intimate connection with each other, as subsequent pages will prove. Madoc, son of William Fitzwilliam, is the first described as “de Aghton,” but we have no record of his death. He was succeeded by his son Walter, whose son, Richard de Aghton, in 1377, married his cousin Katherine, daughter of Robert de Coudray, a descendant of William Fitz-William, their common ancestor, and thus succeeded to the *North Meols* estate.

1397—Hugh de Aghton, son of Richard and Katherine, died, and was succeeded by Nicholas de Aghton, who in turn was followed by Hugh, son of William de Aghton, who was dead in 1389. This last-named Hugh died 22 March, 5 Henry V., and was succeeded by his son Hugh. (*Vide* 1464).

1392-1413—In the reign of Henry IV., Robert Parre granted the manors of Halsall, Downholland, Argarmeles, and Birkdale, to Gilbert Halsall for life, with remainder to his sons and heirs male.

1464—July 20. Died, aged 57, Hugh de Aghton, Lord of the Manor of *Northmeles*. He had married Johanna, daughter of Henry de Scaresbreck, who survived him. An inquisition was held at Wigan “on the Friday next before the feast of the apostles Simon and Jude, 4 Edw. IV. [25 October, 1464] by John de Pilkington, Escheator,” and a jury “who said upon oath that the said Hugh Aghton, who died on the 27th day of July last, was then seized of the manor of *Northmeles*, with appurtenances, in the county of Lancaster; 5 messuages, 120 acres of land, 12 acres of meadow, 40 acres of pasture, and 80 acres of moss with other appurtenances in the villa of Barton-juxta-Halsall, and 20 acres of land in Prestecote. According to a deed, dated the 20 January, 38 Henry VI., he was also possessed of the reversion of other manors, messuages, lands, and tenements in the counties of Lancaster, Worcester, and Warwick, all of which by the aforesaid deed were granted to Edmund Farrington, Rector of the Church of Halsall, and John Ireland, Rector of the Church of *Meles*; with appurtenances in Thistleton, and also a parcel of land called Le Wik, in *Northmeles*, to have and to hold for the aforesaid Hugh, for the term of his natural life, with reversion to his heirs male, and remainder to Nicholas, brother of the aforesaid Hugh, to have and to hold to the said Nicholas and his lawful heirs male of his body. And if it so happens that the said Nicholas should die without heirs male lawfully begotten, then the said manors, &c., shall remain to the right heirs of the aforesaid Hugh. And the jurors further say that the aforesaid Edmund and John by the

same deed gave Hugh de Aghton, Esquire, the reversion of all the manors aforesaid, except the whole of the messuages, lands, and tenements adjacent, which Richard Ball, Richard Henreson, Michael de Mann, William Ball, Robert Haywarde, John Blevyn, Robert Matthewe, Thomas Ball, Henry Ball, Thomas Coppock, and William Haywarde separately, now hold at will, in the Vil de *Northmeles*, and also a field called Meddehey in the same villa, all which were held by the aforesaid Hugh. And in the event of the aforesaid Nicholas dying without lawful heirs male, then the remainder to the rightful heirs of the aforesaid Hugh. The jurors also say that the aforesaid Edmund and John, by a deed dated the 25th January, 38 Henry VI. gave unto Johanna, the wife of the aforesaid Hugh, the whole of the said messuages, land, &c., which Richard Ball, Richard Henreson, &c., then separately held at will in the Vil de *Northmeles*, and a field sometimes called Meddehey, in the same villa, containing 11 messuages, 73 acres of land, 29 acres of meadow, and three acres of moss, held of our Lord the King, as Duke of Lancaster, by knights service, to hold to the aforesaid Johanna for the term of her natural life, and after her death with remainder to the aforesaid Hugh and his heirs. The jurors also say that the aforesaid Hugh was himself seized of five messuages, 100 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 40 acres of pasture, and 40 acres of moss, with the appurtenances in Thistleton; and also of the parcel called Le Wik, containing 60 acres of land, messuage, and appurtenances. The parcel called Le Wik was given to the aforesaid Johanna, daughter of

Henry de Scaresbreck, Esquire, for the term of her natural life, with remainder to the aforesaid Nicholas, brother of the aforesaid Hugh, and his heirs male. In the event of the death of the said Nicholas without heirs male, then the said Hugh shall have reversion by virtue of the gift to the said Johanna, with reversion to herself. The jurors also say that the said messuages, lands, and tenements, in Thistleton, are held from the Abbot of Cockersand, by fee and service of twopence; and that the parcel called Le Wik is held of the King by the twelfth part of a knight's fee; and they also say that the aforesaid manor of *Northmeles* is held of the King as Duke of Lancaster, by the twelfth part of a knight's fee. And they also say that Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh de Aghton, sister and heiress of the Hugh de Aghton aforesaid, is now aged 50 years and more." Nicholas named in the inquisition, had pre-deceased Hugh. *Ob. s. h. m.*

1504—According to the *Calendar of Pleadings for the Duchy of Lancaster*, 19 Henry VII., the King's Escheator proceeded against Sir Henry Halsall, Knight, as to a "disputed title to lands in Wykes Lands, *North Melys*, Scarisbrig Lordship and Argarmelys." Result not recorded.

1518—In 10 Henry VIII. Gilbertus Sutton died seized of lands in *North Meales*.

1520—Elizabeth de Aghton (*vide* 1464) seems to have been succeeded by another branch of the family, for in 1520 we find that Hugh de Aghton died, and was succeeded by his son Richard, who married Isabell, daughter of John Butler of Radcliffe.

1529—In this year an inspection of the deeds and rights of Richard Aghton, Esq., the Lord of the Manor, took place before Sir John Wodhall. The following is a copy of the original inspeximus in Latin, and it is followed by the English translation :

INSPEXIMUS OF GRANTS, &C., WITHIN THE LIBERTIES
OF NORTH MYLLS.

(COPY OF ORIGINAL DEED.)

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presentes littere pervenerint et quos infra scripta tangunt seutangere poterunt quomodo libet in futurum Arthurus Plantagenet, Vicecomes Lisley ordinis Garterii Miles prepotentissimi principis et Domini, Domini Henrici ducis Richmondie & Somerset et Comitis Nottinghami Magni Admaralli Anglia, Wallia, Hibernia, Gastonia, Normannie et Aquitanie Locum tenens atque Vice-Admiralis *salutem* in auctori salutis communi Delectus nobis in Christo Magister Johannes Wodhall, Admirallitatis Anglia Commissarius noster generalis privilegia et concessiones Regum et libertatis ab antiquo concessa Richardo Aghton, Armigero, et heredibus suis imperpetuum et antecessoribus suis preantea in Comita Lancastria videt inspexit and perlegit et auctoritate nostra examinavit antedictum Richardum Aghton, Armigerum, usum fuisse et esse a tempora et pro tempus immemorum prout coram dicto nostro commissario plane liquibat et apparebat et prout in processu coram eo habito et facto liquet et apparet manifeste cujus quidam procesûs tenor sequetur et est talis *Sciant* presentes et futuri quod ego Johannes Wod-

hall, commissarius generalis et specialis Domini Arthuri Plantagenet, Vice-Comitis Lisley, ordinis Garterii Milites prepotentissimi principis et Domini, Domini Henrici ducis Richmondia & Somerset, et Comitis Nottinghami Magni Admiralli Anglia, Wallia, Hibernia, Gastonia, Normannio, Aquitanie locum tenentis et Vice-admiralli vidi inspexi et perlegi omnia et singula privilegia concessionones et donationes concessa Richardo Aghton Armigero et heredibus suis imperpetuum per potentissimum principem Willelmum Conquestorem tunc Regum Anglia *Necun* et omnes Confirmationes omnium Regum a tempore Willelmi Regis Conquestoris una cum confirmatione illustrissimi et metuendissimi principis et fidei diffensoris Regis Moderni Henrici ejus nominus octavi Quorum quidem priveligiorum vigores terre possessiones et portus omnes et singuli infra dominia libertatis Richardi Aghton, Armigero antdicta tam per terras quam per aquas et mare videlicet a Cruce in le Hose in Villa de *North Mylls* usque ad Snotstan et ita procul in mare et unus potest videre versus le Humbar Barell in comiti Lancastria necnon tenetes firmario et ceteri homines omnes cum que et singuli infra ejusdem libertates omnimodo Jurisdictione et potestate admiralli Anglia et officialum ejus quorum cunque plenarie fuerunt and sunt Exempti. *Instantum* quod omnes Punitiones, Correctiones, Deodandes, fflotteson, Jetteson, Lagason et Wrake atque omnes Piscis Regales atque omnia alia casualia contingentia quecunque quando cunque et qualiter cunque per terras aquas et mare cum omnibus et singulis suis pertinentibus infra libertates antdictas

prefato Richardo Aghton et heridibus suis imperpetuum in Comite Lancastria antedicta necnon la consuetudine prescripta a tempore et per tempus immemortum usitat pertinere demonstrantur acta fuerunt hoc omnia prout supra scribuntur et recitantur anno Regni Regis Henrici Octavi Vicesimo primo die Mensis Aprilis coram me Johanne Wodhall commissarie. sive deputate antedicto Quem quidem processum ac omnia et singula in eodem contenta rata et grata habentis auctoritate nobis commissâ approbanus, ratificamus et confirmamus. In cujus rei testimonium Sigillum Magnum officii nostri admiralitatis Anglia predicti presentibus approvi mandavimus. Datum Londoni quoad Sigillationem hujus modi vicesimo Octavo die Mensis Aprilis anno dicti Domini nostri Regis Henrici Octavi vicesimo.

Seal.**J. Wodhall.***(COPY—ENGLISH TRANSLATION.)*

To all the faithful to whom these presents shall come and whom the under written concern or can concern, as it is my will for the future Arthur Plantagenet, Viscount Lisley, Knight of the Order of the Garter, Lieutenant and Vice-Admiral of the very powerful Prince and Lord, Lord Henry Duke of Richmond and Somerset and Earl of Nottingham, High Admiral of England, Wales, Ireland, Gascony, Normandy, and Aquitaine, Greeting in the Author of our common Salvation, our beloved in Christ, Sir John Wodhall, our commissary General of the Admiralty of England, has

seen, inspected, and thoroughly read over the privileges and concessions of Kings and the liberties of old conceded to Richard Aghton, Esquire, and his heirs for ever and to his ancestors formerly in the county of Lancaster, and has by our Authority examined, that the before named Richard Aghton, Esquire, has enjoyed the same from time immemorial, as plainly manifested itself and appeared before our said commissary, and as it is manifest and appears in the enquiry held and made before him of which said inquiry the following is the tenor. KNOW all men present and to come that I, John Wodhall, General and special Commissary of Lord Arthur Plantagenet Viscount Lisley, Knight of the Order of the Garter, Lieutenant and Vice-Admiral of the most powerful Prince and Lord, Lord Henry Duke of Richmond and Somerset, and Earl of Nottingham, High Admiral of England, Wales, Ireland, Gascony, Normandy, and Aquitaine, have seen, inspected, and thoroughly read all and singular the privileges, concessions, and donations conceded to Richard Aghton, Esquire, and to his heirs for ever by the most powerful Prince William the Conqueror, then King of England, and also all the confirmations of all Kings from the time of King William the Conqueror, together with the confirmation of the most illustrious and greatly to be dreaded Prince and Defender of the Faith, the last King Henry the Eighth of that name, on account of which privileges the powers possessions of lands and all and singular the harbours within the domain of the liberty of Richard Aghton Esquire aforesaid as well by land as by water and sea, namely from the Cross in the Hose in the Town

of *North Mylls* as far as Snotterston, and so to a distance at sea as far as one can see towards the Humbar Barell in the County of Lancaster, AND also farm tenants and other men and all and singular within the said liberties were and are fully free from all kind of Jurisdiction and power of the Admiral of England and of his officials whomsoever, Inasmuch that all Punishments, Fines, Deodands, Waveson, Flotteson, Jetteson, Lagason and Wrecks and all Royal fishes and other casualties happening whatsoever, whensoever, or in what manner soever over lands waters and sea, with all and singular their appurtenances within the liberties aforesaid are shown to belong to the aforesaid Richard Aghton and his heirs for ever in the county of Lancaster aforesaid, also by prescribed custom in use from time and through time immemorial. All the above written and recited were pleaded in the 19th year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth on the first day of the month of April, before me John Wodhall, commissary or Deputy aforesaid. Which certain enquiry and all and singular therein contained, esteeming good and pleasing we, by the Authority committed to us, do approve, ratify, and confirm. In testimony whereof we have commanded the Great Seal of our office of the Admiralty of England aforesaid to be appended to these presents. Dated at London, as to the sealing of this the twenty-eighth day of the month of April in the twentieth year of our Lord King Henry the Eighth.

Seal.

(Signed,)

J. WODHALL.

- 1537**—*North Meols* Rectory “An. [no] 1537, Mon. [astery] of Evesham presented.” *Vide Institution Book*. This would probably be the last presentation by the Abbey of Evesham, as seven years later a Protestant rector was nominated.
- 1539**—On the dissolution of the monasteries, *North Meols* became an independent parish, said to contain 10,682 statute acres.
- 1542**—Sir Richard Aghton, Lord of the Manors of *North Meols* and Aughton, died and was succeeded by his son John.
- 1550**—John Aghton dying, aged 60, without issue, the *Northmeales* estates devolved on his two sisters, Elizabeth, who married John Bold of Bold, and Anne [in another document called Johanna], who married Barnaby Kytchine.
- 1553**—In the Lancashire military muster this year, West Derby hundred was called upon to find 430 men. *North Meols* supplied nine of them.
- 1554**—Peter Prescott, presented to the living of *North Meols* by Henry Forshawe “by grant from Clemens, late Abbot of Evesham.” He compounded for “first-fruits and tenths” on October 8th.*
- In 1 and 2, Phil. and Mary, in the Duchy of Lancaster Courts, William Stoppeforth claimed “12 acres of land in

* “Court of first-fruits and tenths,” erected 38 Henry VIII., c. 45, dissolved by Letters Patent, 23rd Jany., 1 Mary, and united to the Courts of Exchequer next day. First-fruits and tenths were abolished by statute 2 and 3, Phil. and Mary, c. 4. Revived by statute 1. Eliz. c. 4, and put under the survey of the Exchequer. The office was abolished by statute 1 Victoria, c. 20, and the collection of the Revenue placed under the management of the Governors and Treasurer of Queen Anne’s Bounty, and the records placed under the control of the Master of the Rolls.—*Thomas’s Handbook*, p. 196.

North Meales parish and manor, called Baldemanyhokes, otherwise the Wykes," by purchase from Thomas Gorsuche and Margaret his wife, as seized in fee in the right of the said Margaret Gorsuche ; the defendants being " John Bolde and Elizabeth his wife, Robert Wright, Percival Brekill, Thomas Ball, and others ; the said Elizabeth claiming, with her sister Anne, wife of Barnaby Kechyn, as co-heirs of John Agheton deceased." The result of the claim is not given in the *Cal. of Pleadings*.

——The advowson of *North Meols*, along with other estates belonging to Penwortham Priory, sold to John Fletewoode, Esq., of Bank, Staffordshire.

1555—In an action tried at Lancaster, 2 and 3, Phil. and Mary, Henry Halsall claimed as grandson of Sir Henry Halsall, knight, and son of Sir Thomas Halsall, knight, who was son and heir of the said Sir Henry, and as such seized of the Manor of Birkdale, with the lands and appurtenances, and particularly a house and 600 acres of land, called Meindale, *versus* Edmond Holme, Richard Barton and others ; the said Edmond claiming, as son and heir of his father Richard Holme, deceased, to be seized of the Manor of Ainoldisdall and of and in eight stallages or fisheyards, and containing 800 acres of land adjoining to the Manor of Birkdale, and insisting that the Manor of Birkdale was in the parish of *Meles* and the Manor of Anoldisdale and the stallages or fisheyards were in the parish of Walton. The dispute was as to the title to the lands. Result not given.

1556—December 23rd, Rev. Thomas Stanley, Bishop of Sodor and Man, instituted as rector of *North Meols* on

the death of Peter Prescott. John Fletewoode, Esq. presented as "true and originall patron." This Stanley was "a man of many parts." He was a son of the first Lord Monteagle, the hero of Flodden Field ("on, Stanley, on"), but in a King's document he is described as "a bastard." This seems likely, unless Lord Monteagle had two sons bearing the same Christian name, for the second Lord Monteagle was named Thomas. In 1542, on the death of Heskyn or "Black Leach," Stanley was created Bishop of Sodor, but in 1545 he was deposed from the See for refusing to comply with the Act 33 Henry VIII. dissolving the diocese from the province of Canterbury, and attaching it to that of York. He was, however, restored in 1556. In addition to *North Meols* he also held the livings of Wigan and Winwick in Lancashire, and Badsworth in the diocese of York—then three of the richest livings in England. About 1562 he wrote the earliest history of the Stanleys, Earls of Derby. It was in metrical verse, two copies being still extant in the British Museum, one amongst Cole's papers (vol. xxix. p. 104), and the other in the Harleian MSS. (541). The Bishop did not let the cares of his numerous offices weigh very heavily on him, for in 1564 we find Bishop Pilkington, of Durham, writing to the Archbishop of York, "the Bishop of Man liveth here [Durham] at his ease, as merry as Pope Joan." We have no account of his death.

1560—Barnaby Kechin sued John Bold, Robert Smythe, and William Warren, respecting a meadow called the "Shylds" and the fishery of a water called "Water Dyche." *Cal. of Pleadings Duchy of Lancaster*, 3 Eliz.

- 1562—February 20th, a deed executed, reciting that Birkdall belonged to Henry Halsall, of Halsall, and Ann his wife. In the said deed all the estates (over twenty in number) were settled in remainder, on nine persons in succession. Five of the nine were natural children of various members of the family.
- 1565—8th Eliz. John Bold claimed (in right of his late wife, Elizabeth Bold) damages for trespass against Barnaby Kytchyn, William Mattheve, Hugh Haward, and other trespassers, for "closes of Demesne land called the "Wykes," with the ditches and fishing called the "Wykes Ditch." *Cal. of Pleadings Duchy of Lancaster*, vol. 2, p. 184.
- 1567—John Bold of *North Meols* and William Patten had the advowson of Preston Parish Church, to which they presented Leonard de Chorley.
- 1568—June 18th, Peter Clayton, rector of *North Meols*, compounded for "first fruits and tenths," on his appointment.
- 1571—The parish church of St. Cuthbert, first built of stone.
- 1572—September 4th, Nicholas Danyell instituted vicar of Preston on the presentation of John Bold of *North Meols*.
- 1574—In the "Muster Roll" of Soldiers for Lancashire this year, Barnaby Kytchine and John Bold, of *North Meols*, were each ordered to provide seven men.
- 1577—About this time the persecution of Catholics was at its height, and *North Meols* appears to have been a favourite hiding place for "recusants." There is evidence of this in the fact that when Queen Elizabeth's ministers ordered all clergymen to make a return of the

number of communicants in their parishes, the Rector of *North Meols* gave the number for his Church at 501, a number that must have been far in excess of the whole normal population at the time. At this period we first find members of the Hesketh family resident at Meols Hall. They had evidently come there in hiding, for their place of residence and estates were at Aughton. Everybody, in travelling through Lancashire, seems to have adopted the plan followed by Leland and Camden, keeping to the high roads, travelling from Liverpool to Formby, and then crossing to Ormskirk, or *vice versa*, leaving this corner then adjoining the great lake, called Martin Mere, unexplored. But on November 10th, 1577, we find the Bishop of Chester supplying a certificate of recusants, in which he includes "John Sotheworthe of Samesburie, Knight, and dame Marie his weif; Thomas Sotheworthe, sonne and heire apparent to the said John Sotheworthe, Knight; Bartholomew Hesketh* of Aughton, Gent., and [Jane] his weif, being daughter to the said John Sotheworthe, Knight." Mrs. Hesketh at this time went regularly from Meols Hall to Churchtown to hear Mass, which was celebrated by the Rev. Dominic Halsall, a Cistercian monk. Campion the Jesuit, who was executed at Tyburn, Dec. 1st, 1581, confessed, under the rack, that he had been entertained in Lancashire by Sir John Southworth, Mr. Bartholomew Hesketh and others. He was at Meols Hall between Easter and Whitsuntide, 1580.

* This Bartholomew Hesketh is described as a natural son of William Hesketh, Esq., of Rufford.

1579—Richard Bold of *North Meols* and Bold was this year High Sheriff of the County. He was strongly suspected of being "ill disposed in religion," and many reports were made against him by informers ; but there is no record of his having been either fined or had any levy made upon him. During his term of office he appears to have petitioned strongly against the measures pursued in Lancashire, and particularly as to the hardship of the levy of 8d. per week, which had been laid on each parish, to support poor recusants in the New Fleet at Manchester. He was, however, unsuccessful. In 1582 he married Jane, daughter of William Morley, of Oakley, Bedfordshire. This lady is referred to in a subsequent page [*vide* A.D. 1613.]

1580—Birkdale at this period was in the possession of Elizabeth Halsall.

1584—Letter from Sir Francis Walsingham to William Chaderton, Lord Bishop of Chester, desiring him to cause Mr. Bartholomew Hesketh's wife (a busy recusant) to be apprehended ; and to enquire what may be the reason why Sir John Southworth is minded to disinherit his son, that care may be taken to prevent his so doing :

"1. After my hartie comendation to your Lordship,

2. My Lords of Her Majesties Councell being enformed of the bad Disposition of the Wyfe of *Bartholmewe Heskyns* within your Diocese, and howe she dothe much Hurte in beinge at Libertie to go (as she useth to doe) where she will amongst recusants and like persons ;

3. Their Lordships have willed mee to signifie unto you that their pleasure is, you doe apprehend the sayd

wiffe of Heskyngs and comitt her ; according to such order and Direction as my verie Good Lord the Erle of Derby shall in this Behalf nowe send to your Lordship.

4. And moreover whereas my Lords be likewise informed that Sir John Southworth hath a purpose to disinherit his eldest Sonne, only because the young gentleman as is sayd, is not ill affected (like the father) but well given in religion ; and to dispose his Lands upon some other, his children.

5. Their Lordships would have you inquier and learne what you can of this Purpose of Sir John, and to certify hither as you shall understand thereof ; to thend that in case the bad Father have so ill a meanyng towards his eldest and best Soon, some Order, by their Lordship's means, may be taken for to stay his purpose, and to preserve the inheritaunce to his right Heire.

6. And soe I comend your Lordship most hartely to God.

From the Court at Greenwich the second of Maie, 1584.

Your Lordship's Assured Loving friend,

Bushopp of Chester.

FRA. WALSINGHAM.

The "eldest and best soon" named above was the same who had been returned as ill-affected, by the Bishop, a few years earlier. Mrs. Hesketh was taken from Meols Hall on this Order, and confined in the New Fleet at Manchester, where her father was also a prisoner.

1587—John Fleetwood, Esq., of Penwortham, High Sheriff.

1588—Mr. Bartholomew Hesketh's brother, Thomas, was a successful lawyer, and this year became a bencher and

reader of Gray's Inn, and about the same time he purchased an estate at Heslington in Yorkshire.

1589—William Farrington, the Queen's farmer and lessee of Penwortham Baliwick and Profits, sued John Adlington, John Salley, Thomas Liptrot, and others, the premises in dispute being "goods and chattels of felons, profits of Courts Leet, fines, amerciements, estreats, and profits of the manor and Bailiwick—*North Meyles*, and other places. *Cal. of Pleadings Duchy of Lancaster* 32 Eliz.

1590—John Bold died, and was succeeded by his son Richard, who had been High Sheriff in 1579.

1591—May 5th, Rev. John Hill nominated rector on the presentation of John Fleetwood, Esq., patron. He was instituted 23rd June, and gave bond for "First-fruits and tenths" to the Bishop on 24th August.

1592—Dec. 21st, William Sawrey presented to Preston Parish Church by Henry Bold of *North Meols*.

—Extract from *Calander of State Papers, Lancashire* :
"Mr. Bartholomew Hesketh, of the New Hall, hath kept for sondrie yeares now together, one Gabriell Shawe to be his schoolmaster, which Shawe is most malitious against true-hearted subjects."

1593—A wooden tablet which was in the old schools at Churchtown, bore this inscription: "1593. Edward Halsall, Esq., endowed a Grammar School, &c., with 20 marks per annum for ever from lands in Eccleston, Sutton, and Ditton."

1594—The oldest existing registers at the Parish Church of St. Cuthbert, commence this year. There are four baptisms entered for the year, but no marriages or burials.

1595—May 23rd, Robert Bamforde, rector, compounded for “first fruits and tenths” on appointment.

1598—Henry Bold of *North Meales*, gentleman, assessed for Her Majesty’s service in Ireland, for recusancy, v. li.

1600—March 21st, Robert Bamforde, rector, resigned. Rev. Matthew Ffrench presented to the living by Richard Fletewode, April 21st. He compounded for “first-fruits and tenths” June 9th. During this year there were entered five baptisms, five marriages, and one burial.

———A list of Lancashire freeholders for this year includes

Ricus Bold de Bold, Ar.

— Scaresbrecke de Scaresbrecke, Ar.

Barthus Hesketh de Aighton, Ar.

Johes Bold de *Northmeales*, Ar.

Barnabas Kitchen de *Northmeales*, Ar.

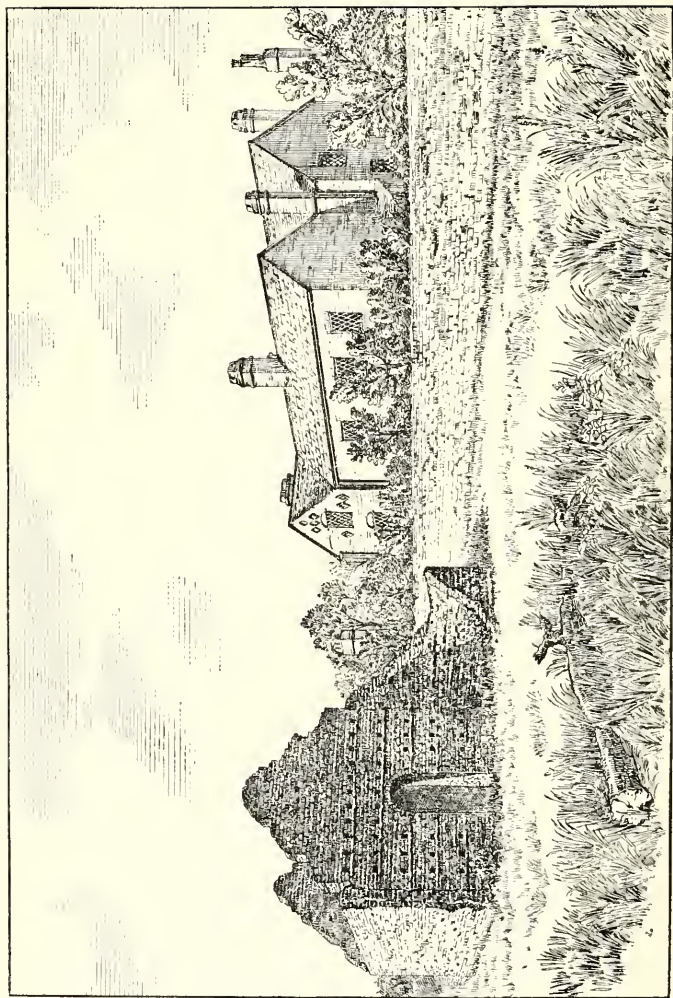
Ricus Fleetwood de Penworthame, Ar.

Ricus Fformby de formeby, gen.

1601—January 14th, buried at Churchtown, John Boulde, Esq., one of the Lords of the Manor.

———August 22nd, baptised Jane and Julian, daughters of Richard Ashton, gent. Mrs. Ashton was the second daughter of Barnaby Kytchine. One of these children, Julian, was buried June 25th, 1602.

1603—Peck, the antiquary and historian, who flourished at the beginning of last century, thus writes of *North Meols* in the days of Queen Elizabeth:—“*North Meols Bank*: This bank, a long, shelving, and sandy flat, is upon the Lancashire coast, nearly 20 miles north of Liverpool, and is about half that distance from the Burbo Bank. The beach is plain, open, and level, and at this



MEOLS HALL AND DOVEHOUSE.

time is much used for sea-bathing ; though in Elizabeth's reign there was scarcely a house to be seen, unless we should dignify with that appellation a few straggling cabins that had been thrown up by fishermen who frequented the coast of *North Meols* during the fishing season, and which were formerly loose logs of wood patched over with turf and thatched with rushes that grew in the neighbourhood. The coast as it retires inland consists of a chain of barren sandhills, which are holden together by the sea-matweed, and were probably then used as a rabbit warren. The people were totally rude and unlettered in these parts ; but the clergy were even in those days extremely desirous of imparting religious knowledge. The Sephton, Lydiate, and Halsall clerks were most assiduous in giving information to the hinds of that quarter, and appointed Church-Town as their rendezvous at Easter and Whitsuntide for the purpose of giving instruction."

———July 7th, died Barnaby Kytchine. "Inquisition taken at Preston in Amoundernes 10 Sept., 2 James [1604], before Robert Hesketh, Esq., Edward Leghe, Esq., Escheator, and Roger Downes, Feodary and a Jury, who say : Barnaby Kytchine and Anne his wife, one of the sisters and co-heirs of John Aighton of *North Meales*, Esq., deceased, were seized in her right of a moiety of the Manor of *North Meales*, and a dovehouse, a watermill, a windmill, 100 messuages, 40 cottages, 140 gardens, 140 orchards, 1,000 acres of land, 500 acres of meadow, 1,000 acres of pasture, 1,000 acres of turbary, 100 acres of wood, 1,000 acres of land covered with water, and their several

appurtenances in *North Meales*, Barton by Halsall, Thistleton, Formebie, and Cornarowe, in the county of Lancaster. So being seized they had issue Alice, now wife of Hugh Hesketh, of *North Meales*, Esquire; and Anne Kytchine died at *North Meales* 8th Aug. 14 Eliz. [1572], and Barnaby continued to hold the premises for life as tenant by the law of England, up to 7th July, 1 James [1603], when he died at *North Meales*; the reversion thereof belonging to Hugh Hesketh and Alice his wife; and to the heirs of Alice, who is sole daughter and heir of Anne Kytchine. Barnaby was also seized in fee of the Manor of Pillinge, *alias* Pilline, Garstang, Cockerhame, and Ellel. * * * * He being so seized 20 Jany. 42 Eliz. [1599-1600] enfeofed of a 3rd part of the premises (Ulckricke Meadow in Pilling excepted), the said Hugh Hesketh and Alice his wife, to them and their heirs to the use of himself for life, and after his decease to the use of the said Alice Hesketh and the heirs of her body." Barnaby Kytchine also left two daughters by a subsequent marriage, Anne, wife of Richard Ashton, of Croston, gentleman; and Elizabeth, wife of Nathaniel Bannester, of Altham. The remaining two-thirds of the Manor of Pilling, &c., was left, one moiety to each of the said younger daughters of Barnaby, with remainder to each other and "for default to Edmund Balle, son of John Balle, of *North Meales*, and Dorothy, his late wife, for life." * * * * "The moiety of the Manor and other premises in *North Meales* are held of the King as of his Duchy of Lancaster, by the 24th part of a knight's fee, and are worth per annum (clear) £5. The messuages in

Barton, near Halsall, are held of Thomas Irelande, Esq., as of his Manor of Warrington by the 12th part of a knight's fee, and are worth (clear) 40s." * * * * During the lifetime of the said Barnaby, the said Alice was married to Hugh Hesketh,* Anne to Richard Ashton, and Elizabeth to Nathaniel Bannester at *North Meales*, and there (as above said) the same Barnaby died 7 July, 1 James [1603] leaving his daughters and co-heirs Alice Hesketh, aged 50, Anne Ashton, aged 22, and Elizabeth Bannester, aged 17, and more at the date of this inquisition." [Nicholas Bannester, of Altham, died 20 August, 10 James [1612], and was succeeded by his son Nathaniel, aged at the date of the inquisition [13 April, 1613] 31 years and six months]. The second wife of Barnaby Kytchine was Alice, widow of William Forshaw, gentleman.

1607-8—Jany. 10, buried "Nicholas Bamford, clerk."

1608-9—January 24th, buried Elizabeth, wife of Matthew Ffrench, rector of *North Meols*.

1612—Sept. 12, buried at North Meols, Thomas Bould, miles. "Inquisition taken at Wigan, 30 Aug., 11 James [1613] before Edward Rigbie, Esq., Escheator, after the death of Sir Thomas Bould, knight. The jurors say "that the said Thomas Bould, by the grant of one Richard Bould, of Bould, Esq., now deceased, was seized in freehold for life of the Manors of Bold, Burtonwoodde, Sutton, Great Sonkie and *North Meales*, with remainder to his eldest and other (up to ten) sons successively in tail male. * * * * Thomas Bould had power to assign at any time by deed lands out of the premises (except that portion

* This Hugh Hesketh was a natural son of Sir Thomas Hesketh, of Rufford.

limited to the use of one Jane Bould) to any woman he might hereafter marry, to hold for her life as jointure. He being so seized of the premises with remainder and reversion as aforesaid, lawfully married Bridget Norres, daughter of William Norres, Knight of the Bath, and afterwards by Deed dated 13 Sept., 5 James [1607], according to the power reserved to him, assigned to Bridget Bould, then his wife, the Manor of *North Meales* and other messuages, lands, &c., in *North Meales* and *Hoole* to hold for her life as jointure ; which manor, &c., were not any parcel of the premises before excepted as limited to the use of Jane Bould. * * * * * The Manor, &c., in *North Meales* are held of the King as of his Duchy of Lancaster by the 24th part of a Knight's fee, and are worth per annum (clear) £6. * * * * * Thomas Bould, Knight, died 3 Sept. 10 James [1612] without any heir of his body lawfully begotten and without any heir to himself, being a bastard son of the aforesaid Richard Bould, Esq., deceased. Bridget, his late wife, yet survives at *North Meales*. Richard Bould, Esq. [the next heir] is aged at the time of taking this inquisition 23 years and more."

——James Bradshaw, curate of North Meols. Very few of the rectors have resided in the parish, for nearly all the entries in the registers are made by the curates.

1613—Instruction to Justices of Peace : " Item.—That ye said Justices in their sev'all hundrethes and divisions shall cause publique warninge to be given in all Churches and Chapels, that the parsons, ministers, and churchwardens shall withn xx daies after Easter next, by virtue

of their oath, make a true p'sentm't, unto the saide Justices of all p'sons wthin their p'ishes above the age of xvi yeares that have not comunicated wthin the space of one yeare then last past."

1615—Jany. 25th, buried Matthew Ffrench, rector of *North Meales*. His death seems to have been anticipated, for the day after his funeral, viz., on January 26th, Henry Wright was appointed on the presentation of Richard Fleetwood. He compounded for "first-fruits and tenths" on Feby 3rd.

1618—October 21st, buried Alice *uxor* Hugh Hesketh, aged 55. This was the first lady of the manor bearing the name of Hesketh.

1620—This year the clergy were called upon by the King for a subsidy made to the Barō of Dono for the use of Count Palatine of the Rhine, the King's son-in-law. Bishop Bridgeman, in his private ledger, says, "The totall loane of the clergy in the Dioces of Chester is five hundreth marks, besides Manchester Church sent up for their parts xxx li. to Dr. Murrey, in toto 306. 06. 08." Mr. Wright, "p'son of *Northmeales*," contributed £1. 4. 6.

1622—Feby., "Subsidy to the King towards the recovery of the Palatinate." The Bishop in his note-book says, "Rector de *Northmeales* nil—Mr. Gee hath it—item, Mr. Gee paid Edw. Lloyd for *Northmeales* 26s. 8d."

1624—Subsidy (to the King) from the clergy "Rector *Northmeales*. Mr. Wright £1. 8. 0.

1625—March 30th, buried Hugh Hesketh, Esq., aged 81, Lord of the Manor of *North Meales*. He was succeeded by his son Thomas.

1628—By a statute, the date of which is believed to be 6 Edward 1 [1278] all persons possessing an income of £20 per annum were considered worthy of knighthood, and in the 13th and 14th centuries everyone who held a knight's fee and was of age was liable to be summoned to accept the order of knighthood, or else pay a fine to the King. In the 15th century, in the reign of Henry VI., the annual income of those worthy of knighthood was raised to £40. James I. did not trouble himself on the matter, but when Charles I. was crowned [Feby. 2nd, 1625-6] the usual proclamations were made, calling on all persons worth £40 a year to take up their knighthood. Many persons neglected to do so—the journey to London was expensive, and the fees amounted to over £60. On the 29th May a commission was issued to assess the fines of those who had not taken up their knighthood. The Lancashire list of defaulters is very large, and includes the following gentlemen of this neighbourhood, who were fined the sums named, viz. :—Edw. Scaresbrecke, of Scaresbrecke, Esq., xij li. vjs. viijd. *Bartholomew Hesketh, of Aighton [and *Northmeols*], Esq., x li. Robert Blundell, of Ince, Esq., xxv li. (erased in list). John Fleetwood, of Penwortham, Esq., xij li. vjs. viijd. Richard Bold, of Bold, Esq., xxx li. *William Hodgkinson, of Heskethbancke, gent., xli.

Those marked with an * did not pay their fines, though ordered to do so. In 1630 a second commission was sent down to Lancashire, and Mr. Hodgkinson is returned as having then paid his fine.

1632—This year Robert Blundell, of Ince, bought “Ren-acres” from Sir Cuthbert Halsall, having two years earlier purchased the manors of Birkdale, Meanedale, and Ainsdale from Sir Cuthbert. Downholland and Halsall had been purchased by the Gerards, Earls of Macclesfield, and very soon disputes arose respecting the boundaries of the several parishes, and law-suits ensued, which lasted several generations. (*Vide* 1662).

1634—March 13th, baptised, Robert, son of Robert Hesketh, Esq.

1634-5-6—During these three years three subsidies from the clergy of the diocese were collected towards the repair of St. Paul’s Cathedral. The accounts show “Rector *Northmeales*, Hen. Wright, pd. 13s. 4d.”

1635—At this time Richard Bold, Esq., was in possession of a list of deeds from which it appears that Hugh Bussel Baron of Penwortham, in the time of Richard I., granted to Richard Fitz Utred “*totas Normoles*” with all their rights members and appurtenances, and that John Earl of Morton, afterwards King John, confirmed the grant. Hugh Bussel, in the reign of John, conveyed his barony of Penwortham to Roger de Lacy, constable of Chester, and by a deed existing amongst the Bold evidences of title John de Lacy, Constable of Chester, gave to Robert de Condray, a successor in title of Hugh Bussel’s grantee Richard Fitz Utred, “All the town of *Melys* with its mills and appurtenances as freely and fully as they were at any time in his hand with free fisheries and other appurtenances,” to hold by the service of the eighth part of a

knight's fee. There is an extract of this grant in the Harleian MS. (2063).

1635-6—Assessment of the clergy for ship money "*North-meales*, Mr. Wright, rector, 35s., ob. (Sefton was assessed at £5. 5. 5, Halsall £5. 5. 5., and Aughton 20s.)

1636—Died, aged 47, Richard Bold, Esq., one of the Lords of the Manor.

1638-9—Jany. 29th, buried "Henry Wright Parson, of *North Meales*." On March 22nd, John Fleetwood was instituted by King Charles I., though a note written in the parish register reads, "James Starkie, rector, 1638, *in absentia ejus*, John Crellin sub-rector."

1640—March 18th, James Starkie instituted rector on the presentation of King Charles I. This gentleman seems to have been a veritable "Vicar of Bray." He was a pluralist, for in the first year of his rectorship, when the King called for a subsidy from the clergy to assist him in the wars against the Scots, Mr. Starkie contributed £1. 12. 0 as rector of *North Meales* and £3 as vicar of Preston. Though he had been appointed by King Charles, he in 1648 and 1649 attended the "Lancashire Assembly of Divines" at Preston, the lay representatives of this parish being "James Moss, of Cross-ends, gentleman, and William Watkinson, of Blowick, yeoman." But in 1662 Mr. Starkie must have obeyed the "Act of Uniformity," for he retained his office up to his death in the last year of the reign of Charles II.

1641—Died Edward Gorsuch, described in the inquisition as "seized of lands in *North Meales*." The Gorsuches were a branch of the Scarisbrick family, "Adam de

Gosefordisiche," son of Sir Walter de Scaresbrecke, being alive in 1189. Gorsuch Hall was about midway between Halsall and Scarisbrick, and was burnt down about 1816. This family in all old deeds is included amongst the "lesser gentry."

1649—January 10th, a deed of partition executed, by which the Hall and demesne of Pilling was divided into three parts, Thomas and Robert Hesketh, sons of Hugh Hesketh, of *North Meales*, deceased, taking one part, one third going to Richard Banastre, and the remaining third to Richard Ashton.

1656—Jany. 12, died, aged 82, Robert Blundell, Esq., of Ince-Blundell, Lord of the Manor of Birkdale. He was succeeded by his son Henry, born 1633, who married Bridget, daughter of General Sir Thomas Tildesley, who fell in battle at Wigan Lane, 1651.

1662—Jany. 26th, one of the trials in connection with Birkdale. Mr. Henry Blundell claimed the wreckage, &c., on the coast of Birkdale, calling a large number of witnesses in support of his claim.

"William Norrys, of Aynsdale, yeoman, aged 81 years, "or thereabouts, said he had lived as servant or bayliff "unto Sir Cuthbert Halsall 24 yeares together, then lorde "and owner of fformby, Aynsdale, and Birkdale, during "all which tyme all the shippwreck that was cast upp, as "namely butter and sundry other things, was brought to "Sir Cuthbert's Mannor House and there delivered, and "when any masts, planks, or any other such things were "cast upp this deponent sould the same by the direction "of Sir Cuthbert, and delivered him the money. This

“deponent was afterwards 24 years in the service of Mr.
“ Robert Blundell, and continued to seize on the wreckage,
“ &c., for his said master. About 20 years before there
“ was cast upp a sturgeon, which witness took to Mr.
“ Blundell. During his 48 yeares service, or during his
“ memory, he did never know or hear that anyone
“ demanded, shewed title, or had, any shippwreck but
“ only Sir Cuthbert and Mr. Blundell.

“ Richard Rymer, aged 91, yeoman, blynd, said he
“ had known the seashore 70 yeares and more, and during
“ all that time all shippwreck, &c., was seized and disposed
“ off by Sir Cuthbert and afterwards by Mr. Blundell and
“ his sonn.

“ James Balshaw, of Birkdale, aged 68, said that his
“ father lived as servant to Sir Cuthbert Halsall, finding
“ his house in rabbits, ffish, and foules. About 50 yeares
“ sithence there was cast ashore, near Birkdale, a sale
“ yard from a shipp, of eleven yards in length at the least,
“ also a ywal called a bolster tree, and the said Sir Cuth-
“ bert having notice of, sent word from Halsall by his
“ officers to take the sale yard (and brls. oil) from the
“ shore and laye it at the house syde of this deponent,
“ where it laye neare two yeares together, and then
“ caused the tree to be brought to his house at Halsall,
“ and afterwards he gave the sale yard to one Mr.
“ Bartholomew Hesketh, who had then a shipp at sea.

“ John Rymer, of Birkdale, aged 74, gave evidence to
“ a similar effect.

“ Thomes Rymer, of Birkdale, aged 74 years, said
“ that he and his brother William found on the seashore

“at Birkdale a porpose which they carried to a place
“called Sorwick (where the said Sir Cuthbert then lived),
“and there shewed the same unto him (he, the said Sir
“Cuthbert, being then in bedd), who gave order to this
“deponent to leave the same. And further sayeth that
“after Robert Blundell, of Ince-Blundell, Esq., deceased,
“had purchased the mannors of fformby, &c., the deponent
“carried a porpose to Ince-Blundell, and also a barrell of
“tallow, which was cast upp on the shore in Birkdale,
“and because the porpose was taken in a nett, he (the
“said Mr. Blundell) declared that the porpose did not
“belong unto him, but to this examitant, whereupon the
“said Mr. Blundell gave order that he should leave the
“tallow and take back the porpose.

“Nicholas Stevenson, of Birkdale, aged 54 yeares and
“upwards sayeth there has byn cast upon the shore
“within the said mannors or townshipps sundry ffyshes
“ryall as namely a shirk, a seale, and several porposes,
“and that all the same were employed and disposed off
“by the owner of the said mannors, who has sent severall
“pieces or parcells to sundry friends and neighbors (as
“merely due to courtesie) and others, amongst which one
“part or piece of the shark was sent unto Richard, Lord
“Moleneux, who accepted of the same as a great courtesie,
“and caused to be given to the bearer 5s., to this de-
“ponent’s best remembrance. Also there was cast upp a
“cock-boat, which was seized upon for th’ use of the said
“Robt. Blundell, and afterwards was ffitted for a ffishing
“boat on the Meyre called White-Oter, for the only use
“of the said Mr. Blundell.

“James Bloom, of Crossens, mariner, aged about 80 years, sayeth that he well remembered that about 50 years sithence there was cast upp upon the shore in Birkdale, a saile yard about eleven yards in length, which Sir Cuthbert Halsall did bestow of one Mr. Bartholomew Hesketh, who then made use of the same for a sail yard, and sayeth that the Lords of the Manor of *North Meales* and all the neighbouring Lords that have their lands bordering upon the sea, during his remembrance, have peaceably enjoyed all the wreck that was cast upp upon their severall lands.

“Robert Wryght, of Crossens, aged 66 years, agrees with James Bloom’s testimony (except for the sail yard).”

All these witnesses deposed that they never heard of any other claimant of the wreckage, &c.

1665—March 31st, buried, at Churchtown, Thomas Hesketh, Esq., one of the Lords of the Manor. He was succeeded by his nephew Robert, born 1634, whose father, Robert Hesketh, had married a daughter of “Forneby, of Forneby.”

1666—March 1st, buried Eline, widow of Thomas Hesketh, Esq.

1675—Decr. 19, buried, at Churchtown, Robert Hesketh, Esq., who was succeeded by his son Rodger.

1676—February 3rd, buried, Elizabeth, wife of James Starkie, rector of *North Meales*.

1683—This year there was considerable alterations in the parish church. The old warden’s seat is carved—

WARDENS SEAT 1683.

1684—May 3rd, buried Rev. James Starkie, who had been rector of the parish over 44 years. He left £40 to the Grammar School, the first sum mentioned on the tablet in the church. On May 28th the Rev. Henry Rycroft was instituted rector on the presentation of Edward Fleetwood, Esq.

—June 18, Dame Anne Ashton (widow of Sir Ralph Ashton) and Robert Chadderton, sued Peter Bold, Richard Leigh, and Lawrence Rawsterne, or Rowsterne, in the Courts of Exchequer, charging for the maintainance of the defendant, Peter Bold, by Sir Ralph Ashton, and since by the plaintiff, Dame Anne Ashton, and also touching the management of the estates of the defendant Bold (during his minority), including manors in Bold, Suttton, Farnworth, Eccleston, Burtonwood and *Northmeales*, &c., &c.

—August 28th, "buried Misteris Hesketh."

1688—March 30th, died Henry Blundell, Esq., of Ince-Blundell, Lord of the Manor of Birkdale. He was succeeded by his son Henry, born 1660.

—Sept. 12th, died, the Rev. Henry Rycroft, rector of the parish. On Nov. 15th, the Rev. Richard Hardy was instituted on the presentation of Mr. Edward Fleetwood.

1690—Thomas Blevin left £20 to the Grammar School.

1691—William Banestre, one of the "lesser gentry," died possessed of land in *Northmelles*.

1692—April 4, Richard Ball, of Blowick, left £20 to the Grammar School. It was lost by Dan. Ambrose and made up by Law. Jump.

———During this year the first attempt to drain Martinmere was made by Thomas Fleetwood, Esq., of Bankhall, near Chorley. Dr. Charles Leigh, in his "History of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire," [1700] says of Lancashire, "The most noted *Ponds* are only Two, and both of them call'd by the Name of *Martin-Meer*; the larger of which is now Dreign'd by that Ingenious Gentleman and Generous Undertaker, *Thomas Fleetwood*, of the *Bank*, Esq., and will no doubt turn to his extraordinary Advantage; part of it being a fat Muddy Soil and containing a great Quantity of *Marle*. Its Circumference is about Eighteen Miles, its Diameter Two. In it were found great Quantities of Fish, as *Roach*, *Eels*, *Pikes*, *Pearch*, *Bream* and the like. Upon the Draining of this *Meer* were found no less than Eight *Canoes* in Figure and Dimensions not much unlike those used in *America*. As to these *Canoes*, One of which had some Plates of Iron upon it, 'tis my Opinion they were made use of in Fishing these *Meers* and passing *Rivers*." Elsewhere in his history the Doctor says, "One thing had almost slipt me, how sometimes in *Mosses* are found human Bodies, entire and uncorrupted, as in a *Moss* near the *Meales* in *Lancashire*."

1694—At the Jacobite trials at Manchester, "Bar. Hesketh, Esq., of *Northmeales*," was sworn as a Grand Juror. At the same time Rodger Hesketh, Lord of the Manor, and his wife Mary were prisoners. During their incarceration some of the outbuildings at Meols Hall were erected. A stone in one of the walls bears the following record:

H
R & M
1695

1697—November, terrible storm of hail by which rooks and hares were killed in great numbers.

1700—Dr. Leigh, in his "History of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire," says, "In a place in Lancashire called the *Meales* under the Moss, four Yards within Marle was found an exotic Head, which, by the description given me of it by the Country People, may doubtless be that of an *Elke*, the Brow Antlers were bigger than usually the Arm of a Man is, the Beams were near two Yards in height, and betwixt the two opposite Tips of the Horns, which is the Diameter, was two Yards likewise. Such a Curiosity never before seen in these parts induced the Country People to cut it asunder into many pieces, each preserving a part as a Rarity; so that had it been entire it had been much greater. The scattered remains may now be seen in different Places, but that is but a slender satisfaction to a Curious Enquirer. The *Elke* most certainly is and ever was a creature forein to this Nation; how, therefore, so many Yards in Marle, under the Moss, this should come to be deposited by any other means than an Universal Deluge, I would gladly be enformed; considering likewise the wildness of the Place and the thin Number of the People where this Phaenomenon was observed (for the *Meales* are little more cultivated than the Desarts of *Arabia*), I think I may venture to affirm, if a Man will lay aside Prejudice and not be too fond of an overweening Opinion, he cannot account for it in any

other way." Dr. Leigh also gives illustrations of the Canoes, Whetstone and Metal Axe found on the draining of Martin Mere, and also of the "Stag of Canada found in the *Meales*."

1701—April 23rd, Fair on Martin Mere. The Charter under which it was held runs thus : "22nd of March, 1700, this Charter was granted by King William III. to Thomas Fleetwood of Bank, Esq., Lord of this Manor [Tarleton]. The first fair was held upon Merton Mere, the 23rd day of April, 1701."

1702—In this year there were nine marriages, fifty-three baptisms, and thirty-four burials at the Parish Church.

1703—October 5, William Hesketh, Esq., buried, *vide* memorial in the Church.

1705—The West Gallery erected in St. Cuthbert's. A carved tablet on it says :

ROBERT : RYMMER of Banks

NICHOLAS : WRIGHT

THO MAS : RYMMER

CH : WARDENS 1705.

1708—July 24th, Rev. Ralph Loxam presented to the rectory by Henry Fleetwood, Esq., on the death of Rev. Richard Hardy.

1709—At this time the district lying between the Birkdale Boundary and London Street was known as South Haws. It is a mistake to suppose that when William Sutton built the Original Hotel there were no other dwellings in the neighbourhood. The registers and gravestones at St. Cuthbert's show quite as great a proportion of births and deaths in "South Haws" as in any part of the

parish. About the year 1709, a fisherman named Peter Hodges built himself a cottage near where St. Paul's vicarage now stands. It is recorded of Hodges that during the erection of the cottage, he caught enough fish to pay for it. A century later it was occupied by Mr. Timothy Hargreaves, and in it the Misses Johnson, aunts of the late Admiral Barton, lodged whilst South Hill Cottage was being built in 1799. Mr. Hargreaves kept it as the first recorded "lodging-house," until, in 1810, he built the "Mansion House" in Lord Street, which was demolished to make room for the entrance lodge of the Winter Gardens.

1710—Nov. 10, baptised, Richard, son of "Ralph Sherdley, curate of *North Meols*."

1711—April 14, baptised, "Rodger, son of Robert Hesketh Esquire."

—Henry Blundell, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Birkdale died aged 51, and was succeeded by his son Robert.

1713—In St. Cuthbert's Churchyard may be seen a gravestone, with a brass tablet bearing this date, on which is inscribed, "Here lyeth the bodie of Thomas Rimmer, mariner, who was captive in Barbary sixteen years and six months, who departed this life the sixth of January, in the sixty-first year of his age, in the Year of our Lord, 1713."

1714—The operations of draining Martin Mere continued, with results that apparently pointed to ultimate success.

1716—Roger Hesketh, Esq., of *North Meols*, together with Robert Hesketh, gent., his son and heir-apparent, and

the inhabitants of the Chapelry of Pilling, near Garstang, petitioned the Bishop of Chester for permission to build a new Church at Pilling.

1717—April 26th, buried, Thomas Fleetwood, Esq., of Bank, aged 56. This was the gentleman who first drained Martin Mere. There is a handsome monument to his memory in the Parish Church.

1719—John Aughton left £10 to the Grammar School fund.

———Decr. 27, buried, "Maddam Fleetwood."

1720—June 23, buried, Rodger Hesketh, Esq. He left £20 to the Grammar School fund. He was succeeded by his son Robert.

1723—June 15, buried, Robert Hesketh, Esq., who was succeeded by his son Rodger, then aged 12 years. He left £20 to the Grammar School fund.

1725—Extract from Diocesan Register at Chester: "*North Meales*.—Here is lately built by ye 2 Lords of this Manour, Bold and Hesketh, a very handsome school near ye Church, there being left to ye use of a school by ye late Rectour 40*l*; by R. Ball (in 1692) and Thos. Blevin (in 1690) 20*l*. each, and since by R. Hesketh, Esq., 40*l*.* (in 1720 and 1723); Mrs. Woods 10*l*. (in 1720) and John Aughton (in 1719) 10*l*. The money is laid out upon land: ye writings are in ye hands of Rog. Hesketh, Esq. *Certif.* A.N. 1725."

* This is evidently an error, or Roger Hesketh who gave £20 died in 1720, so the other £20 must have been left by "Ro. Hesketh" who died in 1723. "Roger Hesketh, Esq.," in whose hands "ye writings" were, was at this time aged 14 years. (See 1711.)

[There are] 3 Churchwardens, 2 of which serve for *N. Meales* and are chosen by ye Lords of ye Manour, ye 3rd is for Birkdale and is chosen by ye Rectour."

1726—October 19, Rev. Ralph Loxam, Rector, buried at Penwortham. On December 28th, the Rev. James Whitehead was instituted in his place by Henry Fleetwood, Esq.

1727—Mary, relict of Roger Hesketh, Esq., gave £10 to the Grammar School fund.

1730—At this date Peter Bold, Esq., M.P. for the County, was one of the Lords of the Manor. At his death in 1761 the male line of the Bold family lapsed.

—During this year the greater part of the Parish Church was rebuilt. The following is a copy of one of the receipts for the work done :—

" 10th Oct. 1730.

"Then recd. of and from the Churchwardens of North Meols the full and just sum of Twenty-nine pounds, ten shillings and four pence in full of money due for building the said Parish Church side. I say recd. in full of all accts.	}	£29. 10. 4
Geo. Moffitt.		

Test. Wm. Dicconson."

Over the Church door is an inscription as follows :—

"James Rimer, Robert Ball, Thomas Rimer, Church Wardens ; James Whitehead, rector, 1730."

1733—Feb. 16th, Rodger Hesketh, Esq., married, at Bisham Church, Margaret, daughter and heiress of Edward Fleetwood, Esq., of Rossall, by whom he had two children, Sarah and Fleetwood, the latter of whom

married Frances, third daughter of Peter Bold, Esq., of Bold Hall and *North Meols*.

——June 13th, buried John Lowe, curate of *North Meols*.

——Sept. 3rd, Rev. James Whitehead, rector, buried.
November 20, Rev. Christopher Sudell instituted ; Henry Fleetwood, Esq., patron.

1734—Extract from Register at Chester Cathedral : "A brief was obtained and twopence gathered 8br 6, 1734, at Milnrow, for *North Meales* Church, in the county of Lancaster."

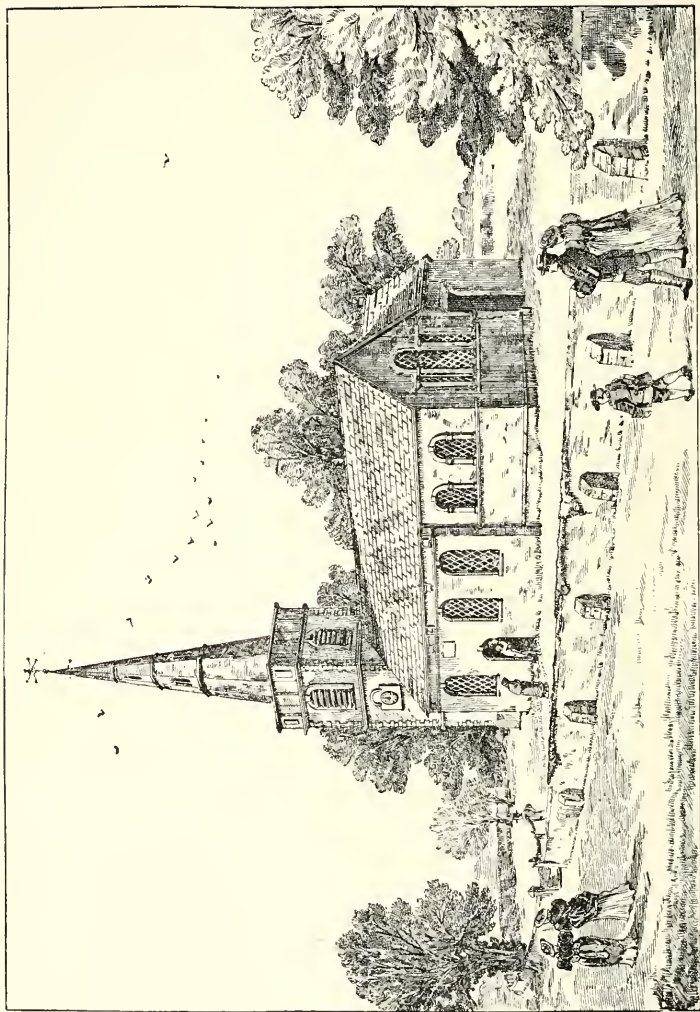
1735—August 3rd, died, aged 63, Christopher Sudell, A.M., rector of *North Meols* and of Holy Trinity, Chester ; Prebendary of Chester Cathedral and Chaplain to the Earl of Derby. There is a tablet to his memory in Ormskirk Church, where he was buried. There is not an entry of a baptism, marriage, or burial, in *North Meols* parish registers, where this rector officiated.

——December 8th, Rev. Edward Shakespeare appointed rector by Henry Fleetwood, Esq., patron. He was also Vicar of Leyland on the same presentation.

1737—"Feby. 19th, buried Thomas Howard, of Marshside, drowned Feby. ye 15th, in his return from ye Bay with Thomas Johnson, Robert Blundel, and Thomas Ball."—*Parish register*.

——May 25, buried William Dickonson, "master of the Grammar School."

——Extract from parish register, "John Andow, of *Meols*, killed at Hoghwick, by overturning of a cart, May 28th ; buried here May 29th."



NORTH MEOLLES PARISH CHURCH, 1739.

1738—Extract from Birkdale Township accounts, "A/c of ye land tax for all the parish is £112. 14. 3. Our part for barchdell is £18. 15. 8½d."

1739—"October 9th, buried Thomas Ball, of Marshside, very old indeed—105."—*Parish register*.

——The tower and spire of the Parish Church built this year. The sun dial bears the date.

1743—April 3rd, buried, "Edward Hamson, mariner, starved to death in ye boat."

1744—Rev. John Armstriding, curate of *North Meols*. He continued in office until his death in 1778.

1745—April 6th to 8th, buried, three men and a woman, "drowned, belonging to the Anne and Mary Sloop, of Emsworth, loaden with Flour and Wheat."

——July 15, "Lancashire to wit. Whereas the Lords day is often prophaned by Disorderly Meetings of several prophane persons and by gaming sports and Tippling on that day, and likewise by several other meanes contrary to the laws in that case made and provided. These are therefore in His Majesties name to charge and require you that from henceforth and so long as you shall continue in your respective offices you give a strict account of all persons within your respective Limitts, who prophane the said day by any unlawfull ways or means whatsoever, and that you make known to us or one of us or some other of His Majesties Justices of the Peace in and for the said County, the name or names of such person or persons who shall offend in the premises within ten days after the offence is committed, that such penalties may be inflicted on him or them as the law in

that behalf shall require. Herein fail not at your Perills.
Given under our hands and seals this 15th day of July in
the year of Our Lord 1745.

To the Constables, Churchwardens,
and Overseers of the Poor
of *Northmeols*.

C. STANLEY.
WM. HILL."

1746—The Lost Farm. Roby, in his *Traditions of Lancashire*, relates that in this year a one-story thatched cottage, situate in Birkdale, was occupied by a man named George Grimes, who was half farmer, half fisherman. The inhabitants of the cottage were Grimes, his wife, his daughter Katherine, and a tall high-cheeked menial of well-proportioned shape, generally known as "Dummy." He had been engaged some twelve months before by Grimes, at the recommendation of a Catholic gentleman resident in the neighbourhood (probably Sir Francis Anderton, Bart., of Lydiate, who at that time was attainted), who described him as one who would make a stout servant of all work, and would serve Grimes honestly and well for small wages. He had, however, one defect: though he understood perfectly every word that was said to him, to make known his own wishes, he had to have recourse to writing. One day Grimes and his assistant left home with the intention of catching a few fish, but on arriving at the shore the boat was missing. After hunting about for awhile, the punt was seen returning from sea with a stranger at the helm. On the latter landing, Grimes at once began to vent his indignation at the liberty taken, "Dummy" in the meantime getting the tackle ready for sea. It was rather a stormy

day, but the stranger having paid well for the use of the boat, Grimes, who liked money, was propitiated, and, along with his "first mate" launched the vessel and went out to sea a short distance. The storm, however, increased, so they soon pulled in the nets preparatory to returning. In doing so Grimes discovered amongst the tackle an ornamented silver casket of great weight, which at once aroused his cupidity. He at once hurried home, leaving "Dummy" to follow at will, which he did by another route. Grimes on arriving home stored away in his bed-room the box, which was locked. The storm had by this time risen to a hurricane, and "Dummy" had not returned. During the height of the storm the fisherman and his wife were terrified to hear whispering in their bed-room, to which there was only one door. The blame was at once attached to the casket cast up by the sea, and neither of the old people dare go in the room. Katherine, more strong-minded than her parents, however, searched the room, but returned saying she could find nothing. After awhile, however, "Dummy" made his appearance from this room, but no satisfaction could be got from him. The storm was now accompanied by lightning, and the thatch of the barn took fire. Grimes and his wife left the house to put out the flames, and on their return to the house, "Dummy" and Katherine were missing, and three days passed during which nothing was heard of them. All this time the mysterious whisperings continued, and at the end of the three days Grimes determined to return the unlucky haunted casket to the sea. On opening the chest in which he had deposited the "treasure-trove," he found

the casket unlocked, empty, and very much lighter than when he put it there. He however took it out to sea, and cast it overboard, but when he returned to the shore, he found the waves had again cast it up and apparently would "have none of it." He then took it home again, and buried it in a deep grave. The storms continued, and the place seemed to be haunted; noises were continuously heard, the sand drifted against the house in immense volumes, and no one would venture near the place at night, and in a few weeks Grimes deserted the spot, which has ever since been known as the "Lost Farm." After awhile, Grimes determined to go in search of his daughter. He had grown a dozen years older in appearance in less than so many weeks, and a Churchtown carter willingly gave him a lift to Preston. Here he saw, being conveyed along the streets, a prisoner charged with being concerned in the late rebellion, none other than the "Dummy," who was in reality the titular Earl of Derwentwater, and had been in hiding after the disastrous defeat of Prince Charlie in 1745. Roby's story is that Grimes and his daughter (whom he found disguised in male clothing) by giving information of an alleged plot to rescue the prisoner on the road to London, got the mayor to send him by boat to a king's ship then off Blackpool. But the boat was manned by sailors in the service of Grimes, and they put the prisoner on board a vessel which was waiting to convey him to Scotland. He was, however, overtaken by the king's ship, re-captured, and executed. The other incidents related by Roby in respect to Lord Derwent-

water are undoubtedly true, and there seems no reason why he should not have been in hiding in this neighbourhood, then certainly a hot-bed of recusants. The site of the "*Lost Farm*" may still be identified near the borders of Birkdale and Ainsdale, on the south-west side of the L. & Y. Railway.

1747—October 27, buried, "Jno. Connor, Boatswain of ye Ormond of Liverpool, drowned out of ye Pilot Boat."

1748—January 1st, Rev. Edward Shakespeare, rector, died at Leyland, where he was buried on January 3rd. On June 17th (1748), the Rev. John Baldwin was instituted, the Patrons "for this turn only" being Richard Harper, Jarvis Tapps, and Walter Chetwyght. Mr. Baldwin was a descendant of Colonel Rigby, of Cromwellian fame, and became possessed of Harrock Hall, Eccleston, near Chorley, afterwards assuming the name of Rigbye.

1749—November 27, buried, "John Grayson, Captain of ye St. George, a vessel belonging to Liverpool, homeward bound from Guinea and the West Indies; he was lost upon Burbo, Oct. ye 18th; the vessel and whole crew perished with him."—*Parish register*.

1750—Birkdale Day School established by the farmers and their servants on land given by the Blundell family.

———The Bell of St. Cuthbert's presented by Messrs. John and Henry Hesketh, merchants.

1751—April 3rd, buried at the Parish Church, "Mr. John Hesketh, of Preston, wine merchant." He was one of the donors of the Church Bell.

1752—Extract from Birkdale Township Account Book :

“A memorandum written the sixth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty-two, what Ainsdal is to pay at a Ley for there part of Hallsall Old Ground ; note in every 16/4 Ainsdale pays 5/5 ½ of the said 16/4.” What Birkdale had to do with the amount Ainsdale residents paid for pasturage, or “Score” is not explained, unless we are to understand that Birkdale paid the other two-thirds of the “Ley.”

——Died, Mrs. Margaret Hesketh, of *North Meoles* and Rossall. Rodger Hesketh, Esq., subsequently married Sarah, daughter of John Winckley, Esq., of Preston.

1755—During this year there was a great storm which did immense damage, and washed away the gates and walls of the “Sluice,” erected by Mr. Fleetwood. This casualty occurred three years before the expiration of Mr. Fleetwood’s lease (which was for three lives and 21 years) of that portion of the Mere which did not belong to that gentleman.

1761—Married, April 14, at the Parish Church, “by license granted by the Rev. Mr. Knowles, of Ormskirk, by the Rev. John Armetriding [himself a surrogate though but a curate], Robert Aughton to Margaret Sholicar, both of this parish.” The bride was a daughter of the aged couple mentioned under date of 1786, and became herself the mother of a numerous family well represented at the present day in the neighbourhood of Birkdale Common.

——Peter Bold, Esq., M.P. for the county, and one of the Lords of the Manor of *North Meols*, died leaving four daughters and no sons. He was succeeded in *North*

Meols by his eldest daughter Anna Maria (who died unmarried).

1765–70—In these two years John Wesley visited Lancashire and stayed in Preston. On one of these occasions he passed through Bretherton and *North Meols*. When in this neighbourhood he preached from a “Cop” at the junction of Snuttering Lane and Trap Lane, not many yards from where Southbank Road Chapel now stands. It would probably be in 1770, for in 1864 an old woman, then aged 95, told the writer that she was a child in her mother’s arms at the time, and was present on the occasion.

1769—March 27. Extract from Account of Churchwardens of Poulton, “Rec’d by Miss Hesketh’s burial in the Church o. 3s. 4d.”

—April 27, buried at Poulton Church, Fleetwood Hesketh, Esq., aged 31. He was born July 1st, 1738, and married Frances, third daughter of Peter Bold, Esq., M.P., by whom he had issue Bold Fleetwood (born 1762), Robert (born April 18, 1764), Hannah Marie (born 11th Sept., 1760), and Frances Margaret, who died in infancy.

1772—Rev. Geoffrey Hornby, purchased from Roger Hesketh, Esq., his portion of the Manor of Pilling. In 1678, Edmund Hornby, Esq., had purchased the Banestre and Ashton portions of the Manor, thus the whole of that Manor as left by Barnaby Kytchine, passed to the Hornby family.

1773—Died, aged 73, Robert Blundell, Esq., of Ince-Blundell, Lord of the Manor of Birkdale. He was succeeded by his son Henry.

1773—Copy of a tablet in St. Cuthbert's Parish Church :

“Benefaction to the Poor of *North Meols*. Peter Rymer, late Clerk, left to the poor of the said parish the interest of eighty pounds, to be disposed of annually at the discretion of the Churchwardens and Overseers, in clothing such poor people as have never received any relief from the said parish for two years, and that no person shall be entitled to receive any part of the said benefaction above once in three years. The said interest to commence from the 14th August, 1773.”

1776—When John Wesley was in this district he founded Society classes, of which one exists to this day, and is known as the “Old Class.” The September quarterly meeting of the Manchester district in 1776 was held at Bolton, when *North Meols* sent as the quarterly collection £1. 6. 3., whilst Liverpool only sent £0. 11. 3.

—George Lloyd, subsequently a well known character under the *sobriquet* of the “Birkdale Pensioner,” but at this time a labourer living in Birkdale, was charged with arson at Upper Blowick, and was committed for trial, being lodged in Preston Gaol until the next sessions, which were held at Wigan. Here he was convicted, and given the option of joining the Manchester Volunteers [6th Lancashire Militia], or going to prison. He took the alternative offered, and went out to Gibraltar with the regiment, but his conviction caused the death of his wife, who knew he was innocent. She died soon after, but it was sixteen years before George got his discharge and returned to the parish, having in the meantime married again. A woman who had known him before his convic-

tion one day said to him, "George, I have thought a great deal about you while you have been abroad," but would not explain herself any further. In the meantime George was shunned by all respectable people, and, even with the help of his pension of £7 per annum, had hard work to live. Over 20 years after his conviction, the woman referred to above, when on her deathbed, sent for the Rev. John Mawdesley, curate of the parish, and confessed to him that she was guilty of the crime for which George Lloyd had suffered. The good old parson had been Lloyd's best friend in the days of his trouble, and George had now the opportunity of showing his gratitude to his pastor. The curate was getting very old and feeble, and soon after lay on a bed of sickness, which threatened to be fatal. Lloyd was in constant attendance, and was never weary of showing his affection, as was instanced by him one night, in 1813, when over 68 years of age, walking to Liverpool to fetch a doctor to the aged curate. When his innocence had been established the pensioner's troubles were over, and he lived comfortably till his death, which occurred Sept. 14th, 1819, when in his 75th year.

1778—Sept. 13, Rev. John Mawdesley, mentioned in the preceding paragraph, appointed curate of *North Meols* on the death of the Rev. Mr. Stackhouse, who died September 9th.

—During this year, Mr. Eccleston, of Scarisbrick, attempted to re-drain Martin Mere.

1782—Oct. 9th, Henry and John Wright, father and son, fishermen, of Marshside, drowned whilst fishing.

1786—The sloop *Castle Creevy* wrecked on the coast ; the crew saved by local fishermen.

——Sept., died, aged 99, Esther Sherlocker. Sixteen years later (April 16th, 1802) her husband also died, aged 101. Thus their united ages covered two centuries. They were “travellers,” as is proved by the fact that at the funerals “double dues” were paid. They were dealers in rabbit skins. On their gravestone is inscribed

“ I lodged here in many a town,
And travelled many a year ;
But age and death have brought me down
To my last lodging here.”

1790—Two sloops wrecked on the coast ; three lives saved by local fishermen.

1791—June 16th, died, aged 80, Rodger Hesketh, Esq., Lord of the Manor of *North Meols*. He was born in 1711, and succeeded his father, Robert Hesketh, Esq., in 1723. In 1733 he married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Edward Fleetwood, Esq., of Rossall, by which he became possessed of the Fleetwood estates and the advowson of *North Meols*. By this marriage he had two children, Sarah, who married Mr. Bennet Williams, of Bodelwyddan, County Flint, and Fleetwood, who married one of the daughters of Peter Bold, Esq., M.P., the other Lord of the Manor. Rodger Hesketh married as his second wife Sarah, daughter of John Winckley, Esq., of Preston, who survived him. He was succeeded by his grandson, Bold Fleetwood Hesketh, Esq.

1792—Foundation of the modern town and watering place of Southport. Up to this period the various parts of

North Meols had been known as Churchtown, Crossens, Banks, South Hawes, Hawes Side, Little London, Higher and Lower Blowick, Hawes Houses, Trap Lane, Snuttering Lane, and Birkdale. For many years people had come to Churchtown on "Big bathing Sunday" to the fair, and were carried to the shore in carts and other conveyances. In this year William Sutton, afterwards known as the "Old Duke," from his fondness of relating a legend of the Duke of York having passed this way on his journey to Scotland, conceived the idea of erecting a house at South Hawes to accommodate those who came to bathe. He erected the first portion of the Original Hotel in this year, of wood, mostly wreckage, gathered on the shore, and here entertained his summer visitors. The hotel was closed during the winter months, the Old Duke continuing to reside at Churchtown till 1798. The "Duke's Folly," as the house was nicknamed, stood opposite the end of what is now Lord Street, almost on the spot now occupied by the Memorial Lamp.

———A sloop wrecked on the coast—a lady, a child, and two sailors drowned. The rest of the crew saved by the fishermen.

1793—Eight persons, all over 60 years of age, accidentally met in one of the rooms of the Hesketh Arms, Churchtown. Two of them were alive on June 13th, 1809, viz., William Bond, aged 99, and Richard Wright, aged 80.

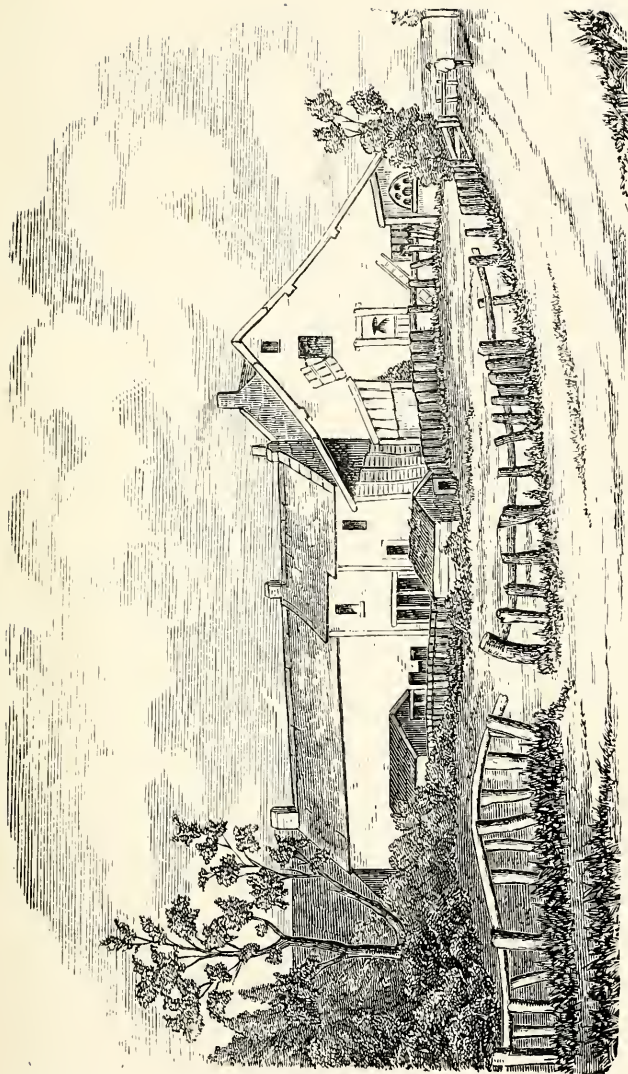
———Oct. 29, died, the Rev. John Rigbye (*nee* Baldwin), Rector of the parish, aged 83. He was buried at Eccleston (Chorley), Nov. 2nd. On Nov. 21st the Rev. Gilbert Ford, M.A., was presented, by John Ford, Esq., to the living.

1796—A Welsh sloop wrecked on the coast ; the whole of the crew drowned.

1797—Belle Vue, now the residence of Dr. G. A. Pilkington, J.P., built by Mrs. Walmsley,—the first good house in the neighbourhood.

1798—In August of this year news arrived of Nelson's victory of the Nile. According to tradition there had formerly been a bay of eleven fathoms opposite the end of what is now Duke Street, where vessels could safely anchor. In this year the Old Duke took up his residence at the "Folly," and gave a kind of "House warming." This event was made to do double duty, and Nelson's victory was recognised by naming the stream, which then ran between Mrs. Walmsley's cottage and the "Folly," the NILE, and Dr. Barton, a retired Ormskirk surgeon, who presided, facetiously re-named the village SOUTH PORT, by dashing about him a bottle of port, in imitation of the ceremony of christening a ship. The term "Port" had reference to the bay mentioned above. Thus was founded our handsome town, which speedily became noted far and wide.

1798-9—South Hill Cottage, built by Miss Johnson, aunt of the late Admiral Ralph Barton, one of the most worthy citizens that Southport ever had. The Admiral was born on Christmas-day, 1798, and his aunt planted a tree in the grounds in commemoration of his birth, and had his name inserted in the lease as one of the "three lives" for which leases, or rather "freeholds," were then usually granted. The tree named is still standing, but the cottage was demolished shortly after the death of the Admiral, on



"DUKE'S FOLLY."

whose decease the property reverted to the Scarisbrick Trustees.

1799—April 9th, Henry Hodges, aged 20, William Hodges, aged 18, and John Hodges, aged 16 (sons of William and Betty Hodges, of Birkdale, and grandsons of Peter Hodges, mentioned under date of 1709), and Peter Barlow, a cousin, were all accidentally drowned returning from fishing. They were buried at Churchtown, April 11th. The catastrophe was witnessed by a young sister of the three youths; she lived to the age of 82, dying in March, 1874.

1800—The fishing fleet of the parish at this time consisted of thirteen trawl boats.

—November 13th, died, aged 74, Mrs. Sarah Hesketh (*nee* Winckley), widow of Rodger Hesketh, Esq. She left £100 to the Grammar School Fund.

1801—Population of the parish at the Census, 1,790.

1802—Ivy Cottage (now called "The Hermitage"), in Lord Street West, built by Mr. Tennant.

—In this year some of the Ministers and Congregational Churches of Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire banded together, and formed an Itinerary Society to supply preachers to destitute places. The first person sent out by this society was a Mr. Honeywood, who laboured for about two years in *North Meols*, Bretherton, and the neighbouring districts. He was the first "regular" Nonconformist minister in the parish.

1803—April 17, died, aged 103, Hannah Johnson, widow, of "South Haws." She was buried at Churchtown, April 19th.

1803—The “Old Duke” having got into financial difficulties, let the “Original Hotel” for a term of 21 years, to Messrs. Hilton and Leadbetter, of Wigan. They renamed it the South Port Hotel. Mr. Sutton was himself about this time provided with apartments in the debtors’ portion of Lancaster Castle.

1804—The “Parsonage House” was at Crossens in these days, but it was not considered a fit residence for the Rector, as the following copy of the Bishop’s license to live out of the parish will show :—

“1804. Northmeols. Henry William, by Divine Permission, Bishop of Chester, to our beloved in Christ, Gilbert Ford, Clerk, Master of Arts, Rector of *Northmeols*, in the County of Lancaster, and in our Diocese of Chester, greeting.

“Whereas, you have by petition in writing under your hand represented unto us that the Parsonage House belonging to your said Rectory is entirely unfit for your residence, and that such unfitness is not occasioned by your negligence or default; that you reside in the adjoining Parish of Ormskirk (which is as near as circumstances will permit), and discharge a considerable part of the duty of the Parish of *Northmeols* aforesaid, and employ a curate who is resident in your said Parish, and have petitioned us to grant you our License to reside out of the said parsonage house and Parish of *Northmeols* aforesaid, pursuant to ‘an act passed in the 43rd year of the reign of His Majesty King George the Third,’ for the purpose of exempting you from pecuniary Penalties and Forfeitures. And whereas we are fully satisfied of the

necessary facts stated in your said Petition, and have duly considered all the circumstances therein set forth.

“THEREFORE, We do by these presents grant you our LICENSE (to continue in force for two years from the date hereof, unless we or any of our successors shall judge it expedient to revoke the same) to reside out of the parsonage house and Parish of *Northmeols* aforesaid; you continuing to reside at Ormskirk and performing part of the duty of your said Parish, and keeping the said parsonage house with the buildings thereto belonging in good and sufficient repair and condition.

“GIVEN under our hand the ninth day of January, in the year of Our Lord one Thousand Eight hundred and four and of our Consecration the fourth.

“H. CHESTER.”

———Mr. Honeywood was this year obliged by failing health to resign his post, and the Rev. George Greatbatch was appointed in his stead.

1805—The Union Hotel built by Mr. Gass, on the site now occupied by the Prince of Wales Hotel.

———August. This year cattle were first sold at Meols fair, which had been established many years as a pleasure resort.

1806—May 1st, a public meeting, originated by Miss Leigh, held at the South Port Hotel, at which the Strangers' Charity was founded.

———August. The Wesleyan Conference held at Leeds, July 28th, to August 9th, 1806, appointed the Rev. William Brown, “Home Missionary for the Meol's

Country in Lancashire." This was the first appointment of a Methodist preacher to this parish, but for many years the district had been visited by local preachers from other towns. The brothers Richard and James Smetham, of Leigh, afterwards travelling preachers, often visited this neighbourhood, as did Mr. Johnson, of Manchester, and others from Liverpool, all preaching out of doors or in cottages at Churchtown, Little London, South Hawes, and other places. On Mr. Brown being appointed, the Rev. Thos. Taylor, of Liverpool, chairman of the Manchester district, came over and established the mission, appointed class-leaders, and arranged regular order of worship. Mr. Brown was prevented, by illness, from filling his appointment, and the Rev. H. S. Hopwood, then in his first year of ministry, came in his place. The Parish Schoolmaster, in his diary, wrote (commencing with May, 1779), "In process of time a Mr. ———, a Methodist Preacher, came into our Town, and preached at the house where I lived, but he did not come long, for I was persuaded to write him a letter that his doctrine would no more be allowed by the ruling powers in *North Meols*, so that he came no more ; his preaching I liked to hear, but it did not reach my heart, so that I was nothing bettered by it. After this came first one Preacher and then another, of different persuasions, in the bathing season, and gave us an exhortation or sermon while they stayed in town ; but he that was most useful during his short stay with us was one Wm. Bamber ; the seed which he sowed in time sprang up and brought forth precious fruit. In some time after this [*vide* 1802] the Calvinist

Preachers introduced themselves and Preached regularly in the Township, after which a place was fitted up for them in Church Town, and different Preachers of that persuasion visited us. Some of these held forth the doctrine of Election and Reprobation, which was not relished by some of the more enlightened part of the congregation, in consequence of which and by the persuasion of some Methodist Preachers, who happened to visit the Town, a division of the congregation took place, and a Methodist Missionary, H. S. Hopwood, came and officiated in the Chapel. This was in the year 1806." This is the first documentary evidence of Methodism in *North Meols* now in existence. There were then several preaching places in the parish, one of the oldest of which was Nanny Ball's cottage in Snuttering Lane, near the spot now used as a bowling green, connected with the George Hotel. It was near that place where John Wesley is said to have preached.

In this same year (1806) the Lancashire County Congregational Union was formed, and its first report was chiefly taken up with an account of the labours of the Rev. Geo. Greatbatch, in *North Meols*. At the division referred to in the above extract a Church was formed of twelve members, and from that time things went on and the Church increased, so that in the year 1809 a chapel was built, capable of accommodating 250 worshippers, at a cost of £70. Two cottages in what is now Botanic Road had been fitted up for the Methodists, but the first Dissenters' place of worship, built as such, was that built for the Independents, and still used by

them as a schoolroom. Sugar Hillock Chapel was the first building erected for the Methodists (*vide* 1816).

1807—Union Buildings (demolished in 1873, to make room for the Prince of Wales Hotel), built as “Company Houses.”

——The ship *Fletcher* wrecked ; the whole crew drowned.

——Nov. 7th, great storm ; the river burst through the embankment from Marshside to Banks, a distance of two and a half miles, and inundated over 1,000 acres of farm land, doing immense damage.

1808—During this year there were 119 baptisms, 22 marriages, and 53 burials registered at the Parish Church.

1809—The Rectory was at this time valued in the King’s books at £8. 3. 4. According to *The Gazetteer*, by B. P. Capper, the parish contained “327 houses, and 2096 inhabitants ; 1034 males and 1062 females, of whom 159 were returned as being employed in trade [principally hand-loom weaving], and 508 in agriculture.”

Of the 327 houses, 38 inhabited by 100 persons were situate in “Southport proper,” *i.e.*, in the district between London Street and Birkdale. Of the total inhabitants nearly 10 per cent, viz. 199, were over 60 years of age.

——During this year warm and cold water baths were established at both hotels.

——The Roman Catholics, Independents, and Methodists all had preaching places in Southport.

——February. In one week there died Betty Sutton, aged 95 ; Ann Such, aged 93 ; and Gilbert Rymer, aged 91.

——August. *Glazebrook*, writing this year, says, “Sunday was anything but a day of rest. The Shore was crowded

with bathers and company from all the neighbouring villages. Many were seen drinking on benches ; the inns were full ; riot and confusion reigned, and a foreigner would have considered it the celebration of a fair rather than the close of a Christian Sabbath."

———This year's subscriptions to the Strangers' Charity were £78. 1. 6.

———Terrible shipwreck. The brig *Griffin*, of Falmouth, Captain Ball, totally lost, the Captain, his wife and child, and five of the crew drowned. Two lives saved by the local boatmen. During the year two other vessels were wrecked, in one case the crew being saved and in the other all lives lost.

———July 12. "Southport *North Meoles* nine miles from Ormskirk, hitherto scarcely known, promises to become in a few years the most favoured spot of fashionable resort in the bathing season. Situated at some distance from the mouth of the Ribble, its waters are pure and unadulterated ; and the mildness of the air, which is here remarkable, is unquestionably very congenial to weak and relaxed habits. A proof of the highly salutary effects cannot be more certainly adduced than from the astonishing longevity of such a number of inhabitants. The beach is perfectly smooth and hard, of immense extent, and without any quicksand, stones, or pools of water, which are often so very disagreeable and sometimes dangerous. The tide flows so high up the bank that it is immaterial whether you go there at spring or ebb tides. To the lovers of botany and natural curiosities, the sand-hills and the shores will furnish an inexhaustible fund of

amusement from the great quantity of flowers, plants, and shells with which they abound. As there are thirteen trawl boats, some of which every day go out to sea, fish is very plentiful, and the lovers of good eating may abundantly gratify their appetites with turbot, salmon, soles, oysters, shrimps, and sometimes with the john dory. The dotterel likewise frequents this coast early in the season, and affords great diversion to the sportsman. Exclusive of the trawl-boats there is a handsome pleasure-boat, which attends every day to go out to sea with those who are fond of this now fashionable amusement, and which to many constitutions is more salutary than bathing. The works of art are here well worth the attentive observation of the philosophic agriculturist. A bank on an inclined plane is now carrying on, under the direction of the indefatigable Mr. Robinson, on the true principles which nature points out as the most secure barrier that man can erect against the encroachments of the sea, through the spirited exertions of the two ancient families of Bold and Hesketh. Several neat houses have been built near to the inn (which command a beautiful view of the sea) for the benefit of those who wish for private lodgings in so delightful and healthful a situation."—*Liverpool Courier*.

"FASHIONABLE ARRIVALS AT SOUTHPORT, JULY 12, 1809.—E. Kearsley, Esq., and lady, Hon. Miss Cary, Miss Radcliff, Rev. — Pigott, Thomas Woodcock, Esq., and lady, — Holme, Esq., Miss Holme, Thomas Blinkhorne, Esq., T. J. Lyon, Esq., Miss Robinson, Mrs. Addy, Mrs. G. Bolton, L. M. Ashford, Esq., Mrs. Lever, E. Lyon,

Esq., — White, Esq., Mr. Hawkeshead and lady, Mr. Holland, lady, and family, Mr. Grundy, lady, and family, — Kenworthy, Esq., lady, and family, Joseph Hutton, Esq., lady, and family, — Chaffers, Esq., and daughter, Mrs. Ellam and family, Mrs. Cheney and daughter, Mrs. Wilding and family, Mrs. Armstrong and family, — Smith, Esq., and lady, Mrs. Fisher and daughter, Mrs. Moore and son, Rev. — Lancaster, Mrs. Shelmerdine, Mrs. Tuer, the Misses Browne, the Misses Bent, Mrs. Guest, Miss Critchley, R. Johnson, Esq., lady, and family, — Hoskins, Esq., lady, and family, Mrs. Blair and family, Mrs. Dale, Miss Charley, Mr. George Green and family, Mr. H. Pownall and daughter, &c."—*Liverpool Courier*, July 12th, 1809.

———Glazebrook, writing at this time, stated that the low water mark was two miles distant.

1810—The Mansion House, Lord Street (demolished in 1874, at the building of the Winter Gardens), built by Mr. Timothy Hargreaves.

———Jubilee of King George III. A special service held at the Parish Church, when all the congregations of Churchtown attended, and the Rev. Gilbert Ford, M.A., rector, preached. A collection was made, and realised £50, which was expended in clothing for the poor, great distress prevailing at the time.

———A brig, laden with provisions for the army in Spain, was totally lost on the shore. One of the crew and a Southport boatman, who went to the rescue, were drowned, pilot Jackson and two others having narrow escapes. A Spanish brig, laden with timber for Liver-

pool, also was lost, three of the crew being drowned. Five lives were saved by local boatmen.

——August 28, died, aged 86, Henry Blundell, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Birkdale. He was succeeded by his son, Charles Robert.

1811—Population of the parish at the Census, 2,496.

——The ship *Minerva* laden with cotton, and a schooner from St. John's, with provisions and oil, totally wrecked. Both crews saved by the local fishermen.

——April 1st. Mr. Joseph Dutton acquired two cottages in Eastbank Lane, which he made into the first Methodist Chapel in Southport proper. They stood within a few feet of the site now occupied by the north-west wall of St. Andrew's Churchyard.

1812—First public collection for the Strangers' Charity, made in the assembly-room of the "Duke's Folly;" result £9 os. 1d.

——Whiteley's repository erected in Coronation Walk. It was for many years occupied by Messrs. H. Hayes & Co. Demolished in 1873 at the building of the Winter Gardens.

——Rate-books first signed by magistrates. The justices who signed the Birkdale accounts for this year were "E. Wilbraham-Bootle," "Wm. Hill," and "P. R. Baldwin."

——"Belmont House," "West Hill," and "Sea-View" (now called "The Woodlands,") erected.

1813—A Sunday School account. "Sunday Schools, 1813. 1 year's subscription, paid at Easter last. *Dr.*—Bold F. Hesketh, Esq., £3 3s. od.; Mrs. Bold, £3 3s. od.; Mr. Ford, £2 2s. od.; collection in church, £2 2s. 6d.; total, £10 10s. 6d. *Cr.*—Paid master at Easter, £8 8s. od.; do.

Prayer Books, £2 2s. 6d.; Bible, 4s. 6d.; total, £10 15s. od.

———Literal copy of the churchwardens' account for the year :—

"The a/cs of John Baker, churchwarding for 1813:

May

15 To my Journey to Deanscourt..... 2 0

June

4 Paide same time 11 0

July To two locks for the towns Chest and

Setting on..... 5 4

1 Paid for Lime at Preston and Carting ... 4 11 7

10 To leading fourteen thousand and a half
at 8s. per 5 16 0

12 To carting sand for the lime at 7s. per... 14 0

14 Pd. to Sparrow heds..... 2 8 11

July To wisket for the Church 10

20 Pd. to the Measn at the settling..... 3 19

Do. to George Yeats do. 3 12 2

24 Pd. to Sevin Gregson for repairing Church
geats and board 6 6

For fetching aleven baskets of coal to
Church 14 4

27 To three bottles of wine 19

Pd. to Jane blundel for the Meason's lodge 5

Pd. to John Bludell as pr Bill 4 5

Pd. to John Wright cotty for dammadge 4

29 Pd. to John Blundel for leading Brick ... 1 8

Pd. to George Medow for filling sand six
days & half..... 19 6

29	Pd. to John Wright cotty for do.	13	6
	to James Spencer for do....	9	
	to Petter Leadbetter for Do. ..	13	
30	to John Sutch for Do.....	6	
	to Thomas Johnson for leaden Sand.....	1	4
	to John Baker for Do....	1	4
	to John Sutton and James Medow	2	
Aug.	to John Rimmer for meashuring the wall	5	
	to a bel roap.....	6	8
4	to Thos Barton for lime and carting	5	11
	to Expense when the bishop was over ...	1	3
8	to peant and peainting the churchgeats...	7	6
	to wire and reparing the window.....	7	10
	to ringers ale for fifth of November	7	
June		45	17 5
4	To ringing upon His Magesty's Birthday	6	6
	to eale and eating for Mr. Nealor	3	
	to the Brickloayers	2	
	to Moles	5	
	to Rich Jackson for work at the Church-		
	gates	3	
	to Orchens.....	5	8
Sep.	to Richd Prescot for the Clock	3	9
5	to aleven baskets of coale for the Church	14	4
	to the bishop.....	11	
	to John Wright for carting two days	12	
Oct.	Do. to one speade day..	3	
	Do. a loade of Brick	4	
10	to do. for Coverseed	4	6

10	to James Rothwell for reparing the Church	4	
	to Wm. Barton for leading sand	12	
15	to Mr. Mauesley for washing the serpsels I 10		
	to Steven Gregson for the Communion Table	4	
	to Richd Rimmer for peaper.....	1	6
Nov.	to Thos Halsall for work	4	10
5	to Singers ale for Good Friday	1	18
	to Richd. Jackson for work	3	8
	to Thos Hunt's wife for washing serpsels	5	
10	to a tub for the use of the church	2	4
	to Rich Rimmer for copping the registers	12	
	to Ringing at the defeate of Bonaparty...	7	
	to dammage in the Churchfield	10	
	to the brickleayers lodging.....	5	
	to Seven Gregson for reparing the churchgeats	6	6
	to Almanack and tideteable	2	
	to a lock for Churchgeats	1	
		23	14 3
		45	17 5
		69	11 8
Amount of Ley Book		54	3 11
Balce due to J. Baker		15	7 9

—November, Miss Anna Maria Bold died unmarried, aged 82. Peter Patten, Esq., of Bank, near Warrington, having married the second daughter of Peter Bold, Esq.,

(obit. 1761), succeeded to the family estates and assumed the name and arms of Bold in addition to those of Patten.

1814—This year Mr. Trevitt became landlord of the South Port Hotel.

——A smack from Douglas, with herrings, lost on this coast, the crew and passengers drowned. This disaster occurred in the night. One of the passengers was the Lieutenant of the *Shannon*, and fought in the celebrated battle, under Captain Broke. A large Norwegian vessel, under the command of a Captain Nelson, was also totally wrecked, but the crew were saved by Southport boatmen.

——Nov. 2nd, died, aged 60, the Rev. John Mawdesley, who had been curate of the parish over 36 years. It is recorded of him that in the discharge of his parochial duties he walked a greater distance than the circumference of the globe. He left a numerous family, and many of his descendants have taken a prominent part in building the reputation of their native town.

1815—The packet *Curry*, for Ireland, totally lost. The captain and nine of the crew were saved by Lytham boats; nine others were drowned, and two died in the boats. An Irish sloop also was lost; the captain and a boy were saved, but three of the crew were drowned, and one man died as he was being carried ashore on the back of a fisherman.

——March. First collection at the Parish Church on behalf of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

——April 10, died, aged 70, the celebrated Dr. Brandreth. He it was who named Southport "the Montpellier of

England," a term which has been varied into the "Montpellier of the North."

———Louis Phillippe, afterwards King of the French, was at this time a political refugee, visiting at Ince Blundell. The Prince, Mr. Blundell, and a party were one day out coursing, and having got too far from Ince, determined to stay the night in Southport, putting up at the Union Hotel, then kept by Mr. Gass.

———December 4, the annual rateable value for the payment of county rates, fixed by the justices at Preston : North Meols, £7,220 ; Birkdale, £873.

1816—This was a most disastrous year for shipping, so far as the coast of North Meols was concerned. No less than nine vessels were totally lost, whilst two others narrowly escaped. They were (1) the brig *Albion*, Capt. Wilson, for Liverpool, three passengers (father and two daughters) and five of the crew drowned ; (2) a brig from Brazil, a priest and 14 of the crew saved—this occurred in the night ; (3) the *Sutton*, Capt. Bunker, for Dublin, the master, four passengers and four of the crew drowned—two only saved ; (4) the brig *Fletcher*, Captain Fletcher, nine drowned, the captain and three of the crew saved ; those who escaped floated ashore on the quarter-deck, which parted from the vessel ; (5) the brig *Padstow*, Captain Hanson, crew saved ; (6) the brig *Shannon*, with wheat, for Liverpool ; the crew escaped in their own boats ; (7) the brig *St. Petersburg*, with salt, from the city of *St. Petersburg* ; the crew saved, and a subscription made for them ; (8) a sloop, laden with coals, crew saved ; (9) a sloop, laden with pipe-clay, crew saved ;

(10), a brig, from New Brunswick, timber-laden ; the crew left the vessel in their own boats, and were lost ; the vessel came ashore, was saved, and taken to Liverpool ; (11) a brig, from Ireland, with linen ; she signalled for a pilot, one went aboard, steered the vessel out of danger, and was rewarded with a little raw pork and cold water.

——The Marine Fund (the nucleus of the Lifeboat Society), established by the exertions of the Rev. Gilbert Ford, rector (see 1825).

——Mr. and Mrs. Clare, of Wigan, took the South Port Hotel, and re-named it the “Royal Hotel,” a name it retained until the license was transferred to the house now bearing that name. Mr. and Mrs. Clare remained at the “Folly ” until April, 1824, when Messrs. Hilton and Leadbetter’s lease expired.

——The Wesleyans had hitherto worshipped in the cottages behind the Churchtown post-office, but in this year “Sugar Hillock ” Chapel was erected. It is situated near Churchtown railway station, and was the first building erected in this parish as a Methodist place of worship. It was opened by the Rev. John Hill, of the Preston Circuit. The place takes its name from a legend, that on the site a sugar-laden vessel was at one time wrecked.

1817—A sloop from Scotland, laden with wool, totally lost in the night-time. Two of the crew were lost and three rescued. Another sloop, from Ulverstone, struck on the banks, but was got off ; both vessel and crew saved.

——The Rev. Gilbert Ford, M.A., rector, appointed a Justice of the Peace. He was the first resident J.P.,

excepting certain Lords of the Manor, who had resided in the parish occasionally.

1818—Wellington Terrace erected on a “three-lives” freehold, the last of which expired about ten years ago. The plot of land originally taken by Mr. Sutton, when he erected his hotel, extended to King Street and Wellington Road ; some of it has never had permanent erections on it, but many years ago a person who wished to build in what was then called Upper King Street, but who did not care to do so on the precarious conditions of “three lives,” went to the Lord of the Manor and got, for a consideration, an extension of 21 years after the expiration of the last life.

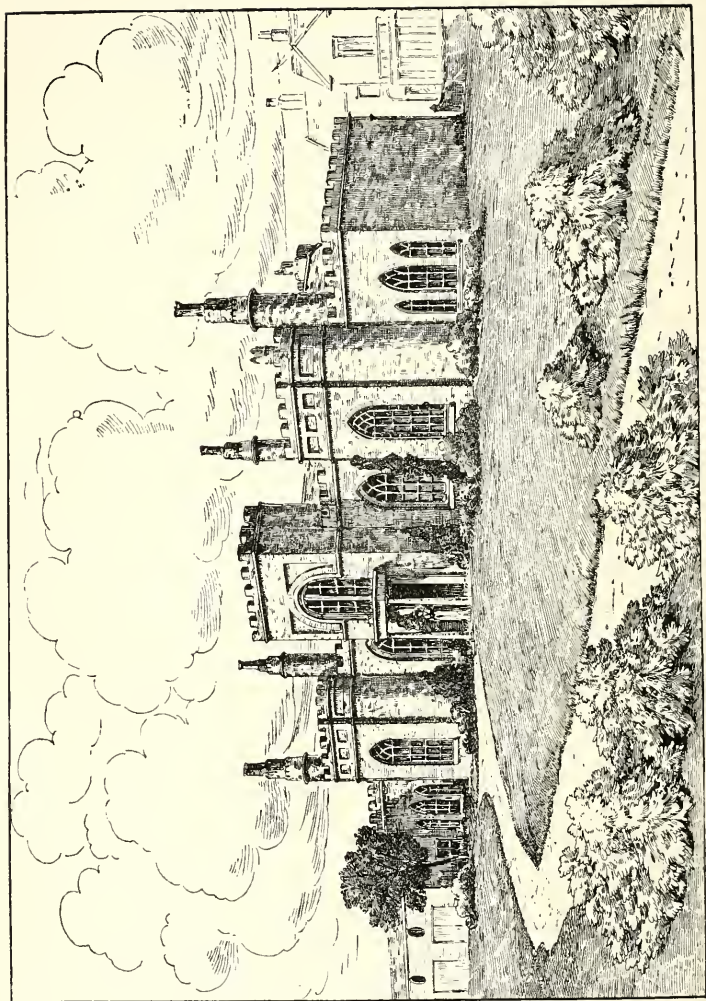
—The shipping casualties were this year seven in number : (1) The brig *Minerva*, laden with oats, for Carnarvon, totally lost, crew saved. (2) The *Isabella*, from America to Liverpool, with cotton, a total wreck ; crew escaped in their own boats. (3) A brig from Archangel to Liverpool, laden with grain, got on the Ribble banks, though there was a Liverpool pilot aboard ; the Southport boatmen got her off. (4) A sloop from Scotland, with yarn, got ashore ; she was floated off and piloted to Liverpool. (5) An Irish schooner, in ballast, got on the banks, but was rescued. (6) The schooner, *New Blessing*, from Liverpool, with molasses, struck on the banks, but was rescued and piloted back to Liverpool. (7) A sloop, from Belfast for Liverpool, with butter, came ashore, but was got off and piloted to her destination.

1819—July, Bold Fleetwood Hesketh, Esq., died, leaving his estates to his brother, Robt. Hesketh, Esq., of Wennington

Hall. Robert Hesketh, Esq., was born April 18th, 1764, and married, at Lancaster, 11th September, 1790, Maria, eldest daughter of Henry Rawlinson, Esq., of that town. She died 3rd July, 1824. There was issue of this marriage six sons and four daughters. The four elder sons died unmarried, in their father's lifetime. The eldest surviving son, Peter Hesketh, who afterwards assumed the name of Fleetwood, succeeded to the estates on the death of his father in 1824. The sixth and youngest son was the Rev. Charles Hesketh, M A.

1819—October, Peter Patten Bold, Esq., died, leaving four daughters but no sons. He was succeeded by his eldest daughter, Mary, who in the year 1823 married his Serene Highness, Prince Eustace Sapieha of Poland.

1820—Sept. 7th, a meeting was held in Barlow's Union Hotel, Robert Holt, Esq., in the chair, to consider the proposed erection of a church at Southport. It was resolved—(1) That for the purpose of increasing the fund for the endowment of the church, books be opened at the two hotels, and the company resorting to Southport be respectfully solicited to contribute to so important and desirable a measure, and that such other application be made as may be judged expedient for the furtherance of the same object. (2) That the formation of sub-committees be promoted, in order to co-operate with the general committee, in the towns of Manchester, Liverpool, Warrington, Wigan, Preston, Chorley, Bolton, Bury, &c., and that the respective banks in the above towns be requested to receive contributions in behalf of the committee.



BELMONT CASTLE.

1820—Belmont Castle built by Mr. Robert Holt.

—Nov. 29th. “On Wednesday, the 29th November, the inhabitants and visitants of this increasing and much frequented watering place indulged themselves in a grand gala, to celebrate the triumph of their illustrious Queen over the foul and disloyal attempts of her enemies. In the morning white flags were displayed from all the surrounding hills in sight of the town; and at noon an assemblage, consisting of the principal part of the inhabitants, decorated with white favours, arranged in order of procession, commenced their march from the grounds of Belmont Castle, the seat of Robert Holt, Esq., on a signal given by a discharge from six field-pieces. A large banner waved from the principal turret, inscribed ‘May the peace of Old England never be disturbed by foreign interference.’ They were preceded by a most excellent band of music. A numerous display of appropriate devices and mottoes was exhibited on the occasion. The inhabitants vied with each other in the zeal and splendour of their decorations; the cavalcade was increased by the arrivals from the neighbouring villages, and was everywhere received with the most enthusiastic approbation. On arriving in the main street, ‘God save the Queen’ was sung by the whole concourse assembled. An excellent effigy of the infamous Majocchi, mounted on an ass, with a large green flag, preceded by six butchers, with bright axes, and a man in uniform, brought up the rear of the procession. A gallows was erected on the green, and Majocchi being exalted from his steed, was consumed by an immense bonfire, the contribution

of the surrounding populace. At five o'clock a most respectable company sat down to the conviviality of a true Old English dinner, the chair being most ably occupied by Robert Holt, Esq. An elegant figure of Her Majesty, which had been carried at the head of the procession, was placed in the centre of the table. A numerous list of constitutional toasts and songs constituted the hilarity of the meeting. A Royal salute from the height was the signal for an illumination, which had a most beautiful effect, Belmont Castle being conspicuous for the brilliancy of its appearance. The evening concluded with a ball at the hotel and dancing in various parts of the town."—*Liverpool Mercury*, December 8, 1820.

1821.—March, "In a small dissenting congregation at *North Meols*, in this county, there are ten poor widows whose united ages amount to upwards of 820; averaging 82 years each."—*Liverpool Mercury*, March 2nd.

———At the census the parish contained 2763 individuals; 548 families in 604 houses.

———During this year Mr. Whiteley, of the repository, erected the first breakwater in Southport, an embankment running from the foot of Coronation Walk towards Birkdale.

———April 3rd, very high tide, which flooded Banks, and did great damage. Immense injury was also done to Mr. Hesketh's property at Rossall.

———Scarisbrick Arms Hotel built (then called the Hesketh Arms) by Mr. Thomas Mawdesley, on a "three lives lease," which expired May 28th, 1880, on the death of Joseph Mawdesley.

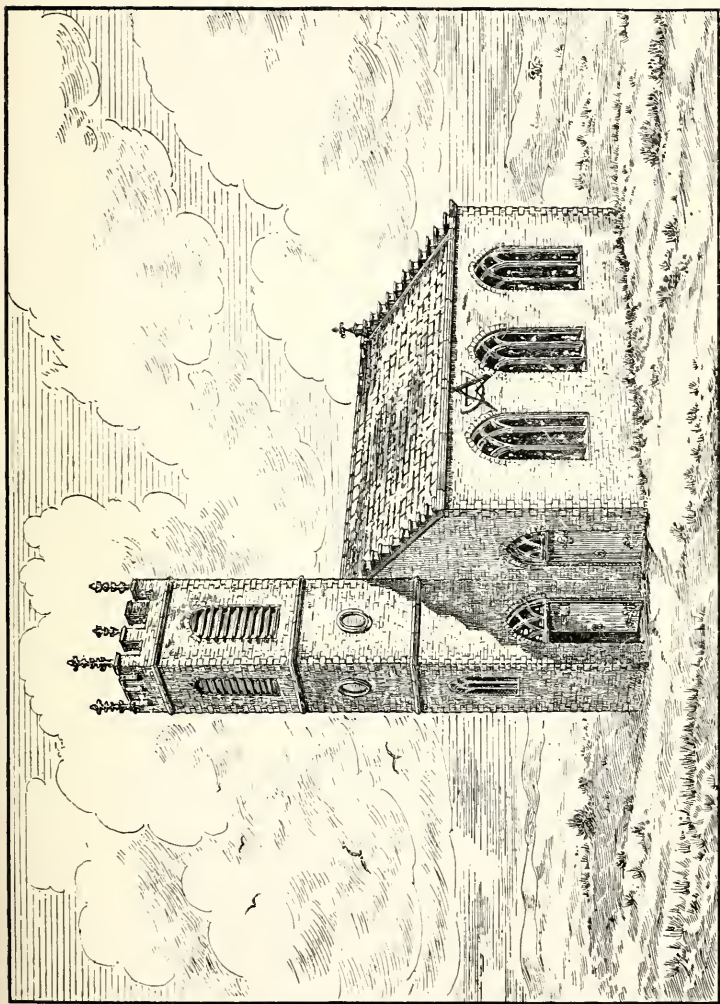
1821—July 19, Southport exhibited a scene of festivity and hospitality on the occasion of the coronation of King George IV. A procession was formed, and the inhabitants, with about 300 fishermen from the neighbouring villages, headed by an excellent band of music, colours, &c., paraded the town till about noon, when they sat down to an excellent dinner on the green. The head of one table was taken by Mr. Robert Holt, and a second was presided over by Captain William Ball. The invalids of the Strangers' Charity were waited upon by the nieces of Sir Robert Peel and other ladies of distinction. Dancing afterwards took place on the green, and at night Mr. Holt provided a grand display of fireworks. Coronation Walk was named in commemoration.

—“The resort of company to Southport this summer has been great beyond all former example. Lodgings in the month of August were not to be procured on any terms. This inconvenience, however, will in part be remedied the ensuing summer, many new houses being to be added in the line from the Union Hotel to the New Church. A temporary theatre, built of wood, capacious and extremely commodious, has added much to the attraction of the place; it is but justice to the mayor* (Mr. Wilson) to state that his first attempt has been crowned with complete success; he has given general satisfaction, and has gained many friends. Robert Holt, Esq., of Belmont Castle, the indefatigable patron of Southport, has patronised the establishment in an eminent

* Evidently a typographical error for “manager,” Mr. Wilson being the licensee.

degree. This gentleman, in conjunction with several others of his own rank, presented an amateur performance on two successive nights last week ; on both occasions the Comedy of the Honey Moon was performed to a crowded and fashionable audience, and the display of talent and professional knowledge exhibited surprised and delighted all present. Mr. Holt, in the course of the evening, gave the song of the "Old Commodore" in excellent style, and was rapturously encored. We understand that at the commencement of the season next summer these gentlemen purpose performing one night for the benefit of the North Meols Strangers' Fund."—*Liverpool Mercury*, November 2nd.

—Thursday, Nov. 29th, Christ Church consecrated by the Bishop of Chester. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Gilbert Ford, M.A., J.P., rector. Afterwards a "sumptuous dinner" was served at the Union Hotel ; the toasts drunk were "The King," "Church and State," "The Lord Bishop," "Robert Hesketh, Esq., the patron of the Church," "Miss Bold and a speedy recovery of her health," "Rev. William Docker," "Mr. Wilson," "Mr. Cookson," "Mr. Newsham," "Mr. Whiteley," and "Mr. Horton." On the following Sunday (Dec. 2nd), the incumbent (Rev. W. Docker) preached from Psalm xcv., 6. In the course of his remarks, the rev. gentleman announced that in consequence of the liberal donations of Robert Hesketh, Esq., Miss Bold, Adam Lodge, Esq., William Fox, Esq., and other friends, they had been able to open the church without any assistance from the legislative grant or from the Church Building Society in London.



CHRISTS CHURCH, 1820.

A tablet afterwards fixed in the church showed that Robert Hesketh, Esq., gave 100 guineas ; Miss Bold, 100 guineas ; Mrs. P. Patten-Bold, £25 ; Rev. Gilbert Ford, Adam Lodge, Esq., and William Fox, Esq., each £20. The patronage was vested in Mr. Hesketh, in consequence of his advancing a sum of money towards the endowment and undertaking to improve the living hereafter." The height of the tower to the battlements was fifty-three feet, and the pinnacles four feet higher ; total fifty-seven feet.

———Dec. 2nd, first child christened in Christ Church, John, son of Thomas and Ellen Hodge.

———Dec., great storm. The ship *Crescent*, Captain Wilson, from Liverpool to the Clyde, with cotton, wrecked off Southport ; crew saved. The brig *Lascelles*, laden with cotton, totally wrecked, with a Liverpool pilot aboard ; fifteen of the crew drowned. A small brig, also laden with cotton, came ashore, but was got off again.

1822—Rate-book signed by Rev. Gilbert Ford—the first signature of a resident magistrate.

———February 4th, theatrical license granted at Kirkdale Sessions to Mr. Wilson.

———May 1st, first funeral at Christ Church, James Edmond, aged 54.

———May 23, a terrible accident occurred on the coast. Colonel John Gerard, of Windle Hall, father of the first Lord Gerard, of Bryn ; the Rev. Francis Crathorne, a Roman Catholic priest and physician of Garswood ; Mr. Adamson, of Ashton-in-the-Willows, and his son

Roger, with John Jackson, a boatman, embarked for a sail in a pleasure boat, and nothing more was seen of them until the next day, when the boat was found drifting at the mercy of the waves, untenanted. The body of Mr. Crathorne was found on the sands on the following Sunday morning, as were those of Mr. Roger Adamson and John Jackson ; that of Mr. Adamson, sen., was found on May 27th, at Lytham, and on Saturday, June 1st, the remains of Colonel Gerard were found on Cockerham Sands. The last known act of Mr. Adamson, who, at this time, was tenant of "Belle Vue," was to forward £5 to the Irish Famine Fund, then opened in Liverpool.

1821—May 24th, the editor of the *Liverpool Mercury*, in his answers to correspondents on this date, had the following note : "CHURCH-TOWN. — JUVENIS, who dates from Northmeols, appears greatly scandalised that at the recent fair or feast, which he calls "Aster Dauval," the host, being unable to furnish a sufficient number of seats for the revellers, borrowed some forms out of the Parish Church. Our correspondent should not be so severe, remembering the true saying, "All work and no play, &c.," but no doubt some of the orthodox will consider it a shocking profanity of the *forms of the Church*."

—June 4th. On this date the *Liverpool Kaleidoscope*, then published in connection with the *Mercury*, said, "Southport is rapidly advancing to rival any bathing place in the kingdom ; but it is feared the late fatal accident will throw a gloom over the pleasure of sailing for some time. There has been from ten to twenty houses built every summer for several years together ;

there are three good inns, one new church, one Methodist and one Calvinistic chapel. A theatre is contracted for, to be built by the 20th June. There is a druggist's shop, a tailor and draper's, about twenty grocery and bread shops, two or three surgeons, a physician, hairdresser, and watchmaker ; three repositories or stores, bowling-greens and billiard-table, a public bath and dispensary—the latter has been built this spring, by subscription, for the benefit of the poor. There is a large assembly-room attached to the dispensary ; there are two boarding-schools and two day-schools. William Sutton, the enterprising innkeeper of Churchtown, built the first bathing house or hut about 30 years ago. He generally goes by the name of Duke Sutton ; the hut was laughed at, and called the Duke's Folly ; however, Sutton has lived to see his hut rise into a town, and visited by some of the best families in the kingdom ; he is now about 70 years old, as active and straight as many young lads of 17. Southport lies 9 miles north-west of Ormskirk ; the Manchester and Liverpool packets pass daily within six miles, and are met at Burscough [? Scarisbrick] Bridge by coaches, cars, and carts. The place was so throng last summer that haylofts were let off at a shilling a head as sleeping rooms, without any bedclothes except horse-cloths or straw."

——June 6th, Dr. Bancks, a Wigan physician, killed by a fall from his horse as he was returning home from Southport.

——Dec. 3rd, a dreadful storm at night. "The hurricane was so tremendous that the inhabitants of this pleasing

marine village were put in bodily fear ; considerable damage was done to the buildings, and an immense quantity of wild birds, such as sea crows, snipes, and other aquatic birds, were washed upon the beach dead."

——The casualties to shipping during this year were as follows : The brig *William* came ashore, but was got off safely ; this vessel had been a pirate ship, but had been captured, and the crew executed at Malta. The brig *Wallace-Edkins*, laden with timber for Whitehaven, totally lost ; crew saved by their own boats. The brig *Whitehall*, with flour from Plymouth to Liverpool, totally lost ; four of the crew saved, two lost, one by the mismanagement of his oar.

1823—The " Strangers' Charity," Lords Street, completed at a cost of £486. It was a plain low building of brick, with hot and cold baths, surgery, and apartments for the committee. It continued in use for 30 years, till the Seabank Road Hospital was built.

——Miss Mary Bold, the lady of the manor, married to Prince Eustace Sapieha of Poland.

——The brig *Rosa*, with flour, from the south of England, totally lost, and the crew drowned in the night. The brigantine, *Morning Star*, Mr. Taylor owner, from Africa to Liverpool, with ivory and gold dust, struck on the banks ; she was got off and piloted to Lytham, afterwards being taken on to Liverpool.

——Panton Place, Green Lawn, and other houses in Lord Street, between Coronation Walk and Duke Street, erected. They were all demolished to make room for the Winter Gardens.

1823—Decr. The Independent Chapel, Eastbank Street, erected ; Rev George Greatbatch, minister. For some years the large room of the Original hotel was used as a preaching station during the bathing season, and afterwards a "Tabernacle" of wood, covered with sailcloth, was erected in King Street ; not the street now bearing that name, but another, which ran off Coronation Walk towards Duke Street. It has often been stated that Sir Henry Bold-Hoghton, lord of the manor, on seeing a respectable congregation leaving this uncomfortable room, offered land for another and better place of worship. Sir Henry had not then succeeded to the estate, and could have no immediate expectation of doing so, as Miss Bold had only that year become the Princess Sapieha, so that story cannot have a very good foundation. Robert Hesketh, Esq., gave the land.

1824—Rateable value of *North Meols*, according to the county valuation, £7,220.

—March. Robert Hesketh, Esq., died, leaving the estates to his son, Peter Hesketh, Esq. Peter Hesketh, born 10th August, 1801, succeeded his father, and assumed the additional surname of Fleetwood in 1831. In 1826 (June 8) he married Eliza Debonaire, daughter of Sir Theophilus John Metcalf, of Fern Hill, Bucks, and had issue a son and several daughters, all of whom died young. Mr. Hesketh was one of the first members for Preston, under the Reform Act of 1832, and was created a baronet in 1838, in recognition of his efforts to found the town and port of Fleetwood. He retired from the representation of Preston 1847, and died at Brighton 1864.

1824—March. During this month a census of the district was taken, showing the population to be—Southport, 656 ; Birkdale, 439 ; Snuttering Lane, 86 ; Hawes Side, 210 ; Little London, 118 ; near ditto, 64 ; Trap Lane, 133 ; total, 1,706. In the remainder of the parish were 2,214 ; gross total, 3,920.

——April 2nd. Messrs. Hilton and Leadbetters' twenty-one years' lease of the "Duke's Folly" expired ; Mr. Thompson, a son-in-law of the old duke, became the tenant.

——Wesley Chapel, Eastbank Street, erected to hold 300 persons. On August 13th a sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Newton on behalf of the Strangers' Charity. The minister at Ormskirk was in charge of this district, the pulpit being generally filled by local preachers, but the Conference directed that "one of the preachers stationed in the two Liverpool circuits shall visit Southport once in every month during the summer on the Lord's-day."

——Richard Aughton, "King of the Cocklers," died, aged 99. He was so expert in his business that he earned and for very many years bore the above title. He lived on a small farm of his own at Marshside.

——October 10th. The Rev. G. Greatbatch having left Churchtown for Southport, the Independent congregation at Churchtown forwarded an unanimous call to the Rev. Wm. Alexander, of Leigh, offering him a salary of £45, which they promised to try to make up to £50. It was not till May in the following year that Mr. Alexander accepted the call.

1824—December 24th, died at Rome, childless, the Princess Sapieha. The *North Meols* estates then fell to Dorothea, second daughter of Peter Patten Bold, Esq., who on May 23rd, 1820, had married Mr. Henry Hoghton, who, by Royal License assumed the additional surname of Bold before that of Hoghton. He afterwards succeeded to the Hoghton baronetcy and estates, becoming Sir Henry Bold-Hoghton

—The shipping disasters on this coast during the year were as follows : The brig *James Fitzpatrick* and a sloop were totally lost ; crews saved by local fishermen. Sir John Tobin's brigantine, *Lady Combermere*, with a Liverpool pilot aboard, came ashore ; she was rescued by pilot Jackson, and taken to Lytham ; a fresh pilot having been sent, a steamer tugged the brigantine to Liverpool.

1825—March 26th. A public meeting was held for the purpose of considering the propriety of establishing a local dispensary for the benefit of the poor of North Meols and vicinity. Several resolutions were passed, a committee appointed, and on May 23rd the dispensary was opened in connection with the Strangers' Charity. Dr. Anderson and Mr. Longton were the surgeons. Thus commenced the institution which has developed into the "Southport Infirmary and Dispensary."

—April 10th. The Royal Hotel, or "Duke's Folly," taken by Mr. John Halfey.

—April 29th. A national day-school "for the education of the children of the poor in the principles of the Established Church," opened in connection with Christ

Church. It was stated that "in the township of Birkdale and the district of South Hawes, in which Southport Church is situated, there are more than 200 children in need of cheap or gratuitous education."

———July 5th. An Act of Parliament obtained by the Lords of the Manor, Mr. P. Hesketh and Mr. Henry Bold-Hoghton, providing for the exchange of lands, the making of Lords Street 88 yards wide, and settling the orthography of the parish as *North Meols*.

———The ninth annual report of the Marine Fund Committee, issued this year, says: "We congratulate the public that the prosperity of this local institution has increased, and that every year continues to afford the most decided proofs of its utility. Since our last statement three vessels have been effectually assisted in a state of distress, and conveyed into a situation of safety. G. Ford, rector of North Meols. Wm. Gerard Walmsley, Esq., treasurer." Mr. Glazebrook, in giving an account of the fund, says, "the object of this charity is to reward the inhabitants of this parish who save or attempt to save lives and property in cases of shipwreck, and give assistance to vessels in distress. About twelve or fourteen years since [1826] a few persons at Southport formed the plan of having a life-boat. One was built by subscription, but proved to be totally unfit for the purpose. There was no crew appointed, nor any fund to reward them. A house was erected for the boat, and she was used as a pleasure boat in the summer months. Under these circumstances Mr. Ford, whose anxiety does him great honour recommended the disposal of the boat and boat-

house and the establishment of a fund, the interest of which would be sufficient to defray the claims that might be made. The subscribers consented, and the rector's charitable suggestions were carried into effect. In the first two years the subscriptions were large ; with these added to the amount received at the sale of the property the present fund has been created, and the interest has hitherto been adequate, generally, to the expenses of the year."

1826—Southport now had 215 houses, with over 600 inhabitants. According to Glazebrook, there were at this time only eight trawl boats, five belonging to Southport and three to Marshside. Low water mark was one mile away.

———The Rev. Gilbert Ford up to this time had not a suitable residence in the parish, the parsonage house at Crossens [*vide* 1804) being still in a dilapidated state. During this summer was built the rectory in Row Lane, opposite Ormskirk Road (now the "Rookery.")

———The number of scholars on the books of Christ Church day school was this year returned as 141—73 boys and 68 girls.

———November 22nd. Died, Miss Leigh. This lady was one of the earliest founders of Southport. In 1806 she originated the idea of the "Strangers' Charity" (now the Convalescent Hospital). To her and Mr. T. Ridgway must be given the whole credit of the establishment of that institution. Miss Leigh, though herself a Roman Catholic, allowed the Dissenters to use her drawing-room for their services, when without a place of worship.

1827—July 3rd. Died, aged 90, Thomas Wright, one of Glazebrook's "three honest fishermen." Mr. T. K. Glazebrook, writing in 1826, says, "Three fishermen in this neighbourhood (Southport), whose names are Thomas Wright, Richard Wright, and William Johnson, have been partners upwards of fifty years, and have not had a dispute during the whole time, though not one of them could write. Thomas Wright was born in the same year and on the same day as his late majesty, consequently he is 88 years of age. His wife died a short time ago at the advanced age of 92, leaving children, grand-children, and great grand-children, to the number of 110." It is further recorded of these three partners, that for 27 years they invariably called at the "Golden Ball," an inn in Longton, both on their road to and return from Preston market. The landlord rose at three o'clock every Wednesday and Saturday morning, and these "three piscatorians" made it a constant practice to call and smoke their pipes, meanwhile each drinking one glass of gin. No sooner were the ashes knocked out of the pipes and the bowls re-charged for the road, than they journeyed off together. Their expenses were thus eighteenpence, and Wilkins, the landlord, calculated that he received from these three always welcome, though sober, guests £199 16s. od.

—July 16th. A Mr. Dawson, of Manchester, this day entertained at the Hesketh [now Scarisbrick] Arms, all the cockle gatherers under 15 years of age. Forty of these youngsters sat down to an excellent dinner of roast beef and plum pudding.

1828—January. Died, aged 86, "Old fiddler Harry." Henry Rimmer, a well known Birkdale character, occupied a cottage where Bickerton Road now stands, and not the "Ash Tree" public-house, as has often been stated. He was a noted fiddler, like the "Old Duke," and visitors often made up dancing parties on the green in front of his cottage. The lease of the cottage expired when he died, his being the last life under which it was held.

———The revenue of the Strangers' Charity, for this year, amounted to £414 18s. 6d.

1829—December. Robert Holt, Esq., of Belmont Castle, an indefatigable patron of Southport, died, and was buried at Blackrod.

1830—Feb. 3rd. An advertisement, signed by the Rev. W. Alexander and Rev. G. Greatbatch, appeared in the *Liverpool Mercury*, appealing to the rich on behalf of the necessitous poor of North Meols.

———May. Died, aged 95, Helen Sutton; she was a daughter of the aged pair (*vide* 1786) named Sherlocker, whose united ages amounted to two centuries.

———August 13. On this date, under the heading of "Southport," the *Liverpool Mercury* mentions that "no fewer than one hundred and seventy persons arrived in the village on one afternoon" that week.

———October. The Assembly-room (Exchange Buildings) opened by a public ball.

———Subscription lists opened, to provide a public clock for Christ Church tower; the moving spirit in the matter was Mr. John Smith, of the *Liverpool Mercury*.

1830—October 27. The foundation stone of Churchtown Independent Chapel laid by the Rev. Geo. Greatbatch. It was erected from the designs and under the superintendence of Martin Haigh, Esq., of Liverpool, who also subscribed handsomely to the cost.

———Southport Burial Society, a friendly society in connection with Christ Church, established. It is still in existence.

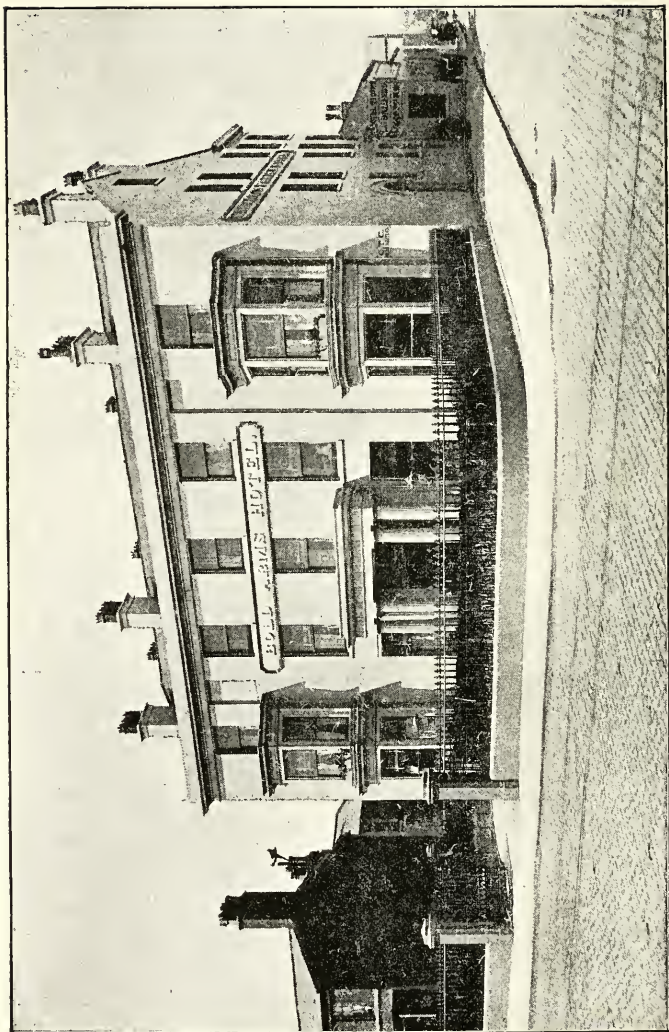
———November. Southport coursing meetings established.

1831—Population at the census, males, 2,486; females, 2,646. Inhabited houses, 875; families, 913; houses building, 7; houses uninhabited, 50; families employed in agriculture, 235; in trade manufactures, &c., 422; all other families, 256; males over 21 years, 1,150.

———July 21st. Churchtown Congregational Chapel opened. The Rev. Dr. Raffles, of Liverpool, preached in the morning from 2 Cor., iv., 5; the evening preacher being the Rev. Dr. McAll, of Manchester; the Revs. Geo. Greatbatch (former pastor) and John Toothill (Rainford) also took part in the services. The chapel cost £950, the whole of which was raised before the end of the year, by the exertions of the Rev. W. Alexander.

1832—Southport branch of the London Missionary Society contributed £32 to the Parent Society. The Southport branch of the Wesleyan Missionary Society sent up to London £22 3s. 9d.

———August. Mr. Joseph John Gurney, of Norwich, visiting the Lancashire Societies of Friends, came to Southport, and during his stay preached in the Wesleyan Chapel.



BOLD ARMS HOTEL.

1832—The “Bold Arms Hotel,” erected by Mr. Thomas Mawdesley, opened by Mr. John Halfey, who removed from the Royal Hotel (Duke’s Folly). Mr. Halfey continued to hold the license for over forty years, when he was succeeded by his son, Mr. Jos. B. Halfey. The latter gentleman, some years ago, transferred it to Mr. George Nickson, who held it until a few months since, when it became the property of Mr. W. Dinwoodie. Under the genial management of the present proprietor it has been made the head-quarters of the Cyclists’ Tourists’ Club, and the Southport Curling Club. In connection with the last-named association, it is much frequented by Scotchmen ; in fact, natives of the “land o’ cakes” are always to be found on the premises. It is now the oldest family hotel in the town, and is a very favourite resort of those who knew Southport as a village. The billiard-room—said to be the finest in England—contains two splendid tables.

1833—Boat races instituted on the shore, and mainly supported by the Lords of the Manor.

——Public clock placed in the tower of Christ Church. The necessary money was raised by subscription, and the proceeds of a lecture given by Mr. John Smith, of the *Liverpool Mercury*.

——Several fishermen were this year drowned through the upsetting of their boat off the Marshside coast. A public subscription was made for the relatives, and the Rev. Wm. Alexander adopted one of the fatherless girls.

1834—During this year Peter Hesketh, Esq., projected the making of a promenade or sea fence, with a footpath and

carriage drive. It commenced at the end of Nevill Street, and extended about 400 yards towards Coronation Walk. This having been made, Sir Henry Bold-Hoghton soon afterwards leased the adjoining portion as far as Coronation Walk to a Mr. Hill.

——November. Terrible storm, which burst through the embankments from Marshside to Banks, doing immense damage. The grounds of Bankfield House (adjoining Crossens Station) were flooded to a considerable depth.

1835—Jany. 19th. The first recorded election meeting in Southport was held this day in the Assembly Rooms. The candidates were the Right Hon. Lord Francis Egerton and the Hon. Richard Bootle Wilbraham (father of Earl Lathom). The report implies that on the previous Saturday the rival candidates, Lord Molyneux and Mr. G. W. Wood, had addressed the electors, but there is no account of that meeting to be found. Extensive preparations had been made to receive Lord Egerton and Mr. Wilbraham with conspicuous honour, for we are told in a "broadsheet" report of the meeting, issued from an Ormskirk printing-office, that "It having been announced several days previously that the two popular candidates for the representation of Southern Lancashire would this day honor Southport with their presence, the various inhabitants of that salubrious bathing place were on the alert at an early hour in the morning, and seemed to vie with each other in their efforts to receive their distinguished visitors with a *coup de grâce* commensurate with the pleasing event. Several new beautiful silk flags were gratuitously furnished by parties enthusiastic in the

cause, and the whole village presented a most lively, animated, and gratifying scene, the effect of all which was most materially heightened by the presence of a host of respectably dressed women and farmers, headed by the stewards to the Lords of the Manor, Mr. Maddocks and Mr. Linaker, who willingly came forward to avouch their determination to support the Candidates of Constitutional Reform." We are further told that a procession was formed at the Bold Arms Hotel, and that headed by a band of music it proceeded, with its flags, banners, &c., to escort the candidates to the Assembly Rooms, where Mr. Ralph Peters took the chair, and addresses were given by Lord Egerton and Mr. Wilbraham. Afterwards his Lordship was "heckled" by a Mr. Rushton, a "putterout," of Churchtown, in a manner quite familiar to recent candidates for Parliamentary honours. The result of the election was in favour of these supporters of Sir Robert Peel, the final state of the poll being—Egerton, 5,620; Wilbraham, 4,729; Molyneux, 4,629; Wood, 4,294.

——June. Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A., appointed rector in succession to the Rev. Gilbert Ford, M.A., J.P., D.L., deceased. The Rev. Chas. Hesketh was the youngest son of Robert Hesketh, Esq., and was born at Wennington Hall, near Lancaster, March 15th, 1804. He was baptised at Melling Church, in which parish Wennington is situated. He was ordained in 1828, and on July 24th that year he was instituted vicar of Poulton-le-Fylde on the cessation of the Rev. Nathaniel Hinde. In 1831 he was appointed perpetual curate of Bispham, and went to

live at Bispham Lodge, employing a curate at Poulton. In accordance with his father's will, he, on the death of Rector Ford, succeeded to the rectory of North Meols (all three livings being in the gift of his brother, Peter Hesketh, Esq.) He resigned Poulton on coming to North Meols, and the following year gave up Bispham.

—“The pastimes of the parish in 1835 consisted of bull-baits at Christmas in North Meols [Churchtown] and Crossens; of a village entertainment in April called “Dorval,” when the rustics enjoyed themselves with dancing, drinking, and other sports, and when pies containing figs were eaten; and at Birkdale there was a “Rushbearing” on the Monday fortnight after North Meols fair.”—*Baines*.

1836—March 23rd. Rev. William Alexander, writing to his son, says: “A new and surprising revolution has taken place in this parish. The new rector and his curate are doing just what they ought to do; they preach three or four times on the Sabbath, and in houses, schools, and barns during the week. I have heard him three times in the school on Thursday evenings. He preaches the Gospel; his language is good, but plain and simple, so that all may understand. Being brother to the Lord of the Manor, who is member for Preston, of whom many farmers here hold their farms, his influence is very great. The church, I am told, is filled.”

—May 7th. The *Southport Record*, price twopence, published by Mr. William Alsop, 65, Lords Street,—the

shop now occupied by Mr. George Ball, chemist and seedsman.

1837—Holy Trinity Church and St. John's Church, Crossens, with their respective vicarages, built this year, from the same plans. The Rev. Jonathan Jackson was appointed vicar of the former, and the Rev. J. Power, vicar of St. John's. Writing on March 4th, the Rev. Wm. Alexander, the Independent minister at Churchtown, said, "A new church is built at Crossens, and they are preparing bricks for another at Southport. On Sabbath and week-day there is preaching at fourteen places in the parish; I have always approved of what I have heard the rector preach; I wish all our young ministers were as simple and plain. With such a rector and such curates as he employs, so near to us, you will not be surprised to hear that my congregation does not increase. We are thankful that we have about kept up our number."

—Sept. 1st. Memorial stone fixed on the Promenade by Peter Hesketh, Esq. It was moved a few yards nearer the pier, about 1873, when the Promenade was extended to Duke Street. It is now nearly opposite the Royal Hotel, used as a piece of rock work.

—This year Sir Henry Bold-Hoghton, Bart., leased to the Victoria Baths Company the land from Nevill Street to Seabank Road, on which that portion of the Promenade is made. A toll-gate was established on the Promenade the same year.

—Oct. 27. Died, aged 76, Charles Robert Blundell, Esq., of Ince Blundell, Lord of the Manor of Birkdale

Owing to Mr. C. R. Blundell being a confirmed bachelor, during the lifetime of his father, the latter "suffered fine and recovery" in order that he might leave his property as he thought fit. He accordingly left large estates to his daughters. Mr. C. R. Blundell entered actions against his sisters, and made strenuous efforts to recover the alienated estates, but failed. In consequence he decided to leave the Ince-Blundell estates to a distant branch of the family, which he did by his will made in 1834 [*vide* 1847.] Wishing to perform an act of kindness to his dependants, he selected sixteen of his principal tenants, to whom he granted the privilege of holding their farms for twenty-one years, at half-rent. This made a difference of £2,000 a year in the rent-roll. Mr. Thomas Weld, the heir, in accordance with the terms of the testator's will, adopted the name of Blundell, after that of Weld. He has died whilst these "Annals" have been in preparation.

1838—Claremont House, built this year as a private hotel, and kept by Mr. Michael Charlton. The same year Mr. Richard Wright built the Hoghton Arms Hotel, but it did not get a license for several years.

——August 19th. "Our rector and his curates are indefatigable in preaching and visiting; I pray that they may do much good."—*Rev. W. Alexander.*

——Nov. 20th. The deposits in the Southport Savings Bank, which had only been established this year, amounted to £1,101.

1839—January 7th. Terrible storm and high-tide, which did an immense amount of damage.

1839—Feby. 14th. The following valedictory address, as a sample of the election literature of the time, may be considered worthy of record :—

To the Ratepayers of the Township of North Meols.

IN retiring from the Office of Guardian of the Poor for this Township, I wish to return you my sincere acknowledgments for the confidence you thought proper to repose in me, by electing me as one of your Guardians ; and further to assure you that during the period of more than 2 years that I have served that office, it has been my unremitting study to exert my influence on behalf of the suffering and destitute Poor, as well as to guard the Rate Payers from every improper encroachment upon their Funds, in as liberal and as just a manner as my information and observation enabled me to do, and in full concurrence with the Board of Guardians of the Ormskirk Union. Notwithstanding all these efforts of mine, joined to those of my brother Guardian, I am sorry to observe a Bill posted on the walls, conveying a loose insinuation that only £20 per annum should be charged for the Assistant Overseer, whereas £45 has been charged. This is a poor and pitiful return for my exertions for the Township, and one that I cannot (wishing to follow my agricultural occupations in peace) for a moment submit to ; inasmuch as the Assistant Overseer's salary of £45 per annum was allowed by the General Board of Guardians, in the presence of S. Lees, Esq., and Mr. Wm. Ball, of Southport, myself, and many Guardians of other Townships, and also by and with the previous

consent of the principal Rate Payers of this Township ; whilst the said sum of £45 per annum includes the Salary of the Township's Clerk as well as other incidental expenses.

Feeling conscious that I have done my duty, without any remuneration except what the Parishioners may offer as a present (and there are little hopes when such bad feelings are fomented), I therefore decline the office, wishing you may select future officers who will be able to give you satisfaction ; although, in justice to the impartial and unremitting attention of my colleague in office, Mr. W. Ball, of Southport, I cannot but strenuously recommend that you should re-elect him as a Guardian of the Poor for the ensuing Year, as the general interests of the Parish would appear to require the aid of one whose previous practical knowledge must be serviceable.

I am, &c.,

Row Lane, North Meols,
14th February, 1839.

Respectfully Yours,
THOMAS BAKER.

There is a memorial tablet to Mr. Baker in the Parish Church.

——May 2nd. The Victoria Baths, erected at a cost of £6,000, opened this day. About the same time the Promenade was completed from the Baths to Coronation Walk.

——Nov. 5th. " Loyal Fleetwood " Lodge of Oddfellows founded.

1840—First Church bazaar held in Southport, on behalf of Holy Trinity Church.

1840—Southport branch of the Church Missionary Society founded.

———St. Marie's Roman Catholic Church, Seabank Road, built from designs of the elder Pugin. For some years the congregation had worshipped in Lords Street, near Crown House.

———May 29th, buried, at Churchtown, aged 88, Mr. W. Sutton, "the Old Duke." He was the best monumental mason in the parish. There are many excellent specimens of his work in St. Cuthbert's Churchyard; a large number of them being distinguishable by the skull and cross-bones; a favourite device of his.

———Dec. 7th. Lady Bold-Hoghton died, and was succeeded in the North Meols estate by her eldest son.

1841—St. Marie's Roman Catholic Church finished; Rev. James Newsham, rector. A stained glass window, the gift of the Earl of Shrewsbury, was placed over the altar.

———April. Census. Population of the Parish, 8,331.

1842—April 15th to 21st. Postal statistics: Posted at Southport during the week—letters, 1,369; newspapers, 95; books, 22. (*Vide* 1852, 1862, 1872, and 1882).

———The Victoria Hotel built; it at that time, and for over twenty years, consisted only of the wing nearest the Baths. Mr. John Salthouse was the first proprietor.

———The "Ariel" and "Flying Dutchman," the two first boats on wheels, were established this year, but were soon after discontinued through an accident with some bathing vans.

———The license of the "Duke's Folly" suspended by the magistrates, owing to the dilapidated state of the premises.

1842—In the return for this year, the tithe commutation is given at £800. Tithe owner, the Rector. Glebe area, 15 acres, 3 roods, 20 poles. *Tax et valor*, 1291-94, no return ; ditto, Henry VIII., £8. 3s. 4d.

—August. Intense distress amongst the labouring population. The Rev. William Alexander, writing to his son, said, "Never, I presume, were two such months known in North Meols as the last two have been. Except the farmers all are weavers.* Almost all of them have been idle during that time ; many are idle now ; and if winter overtakes them in this state, I know not what will become of many families."

1843—February. Charles Scarisbrick, Esq., of Scarisbrick Hall, bought the North Meols estates of Mr. Bold-Hoghton for £132,000. Mr. Bold-Hoghton and his father, Sir Henry, afterwards had a great law-suit as to the disposal of this money, the sale having been made to pay the mortgage off the Hoghton estates. The case resulted in Mr. Bold-Hoghton getting a mortgage on his father's estates, to the extent of £90,000.

—Feb. 21st. Rev. W. Alexander attained the age of 80 years. A social tea meeting, with a public meeting afterwards, was held in the chapel at Churchtown. One of the inscriptions on the walls was from 2 Samuel, xix., 35, "I am this day four score years old." An address

* Handloom weaving was introduced into the parish by a man named Hooton, from Patricroft, in the latter part of last or early in the present century. We have not been able to ascertain the exact date, but it was in the time of Miss Anna Maria Bold, who was a lady of the manor from 1761 to 1813. The weaving is believed to have been introduced near the time "Bold House" was re-built, viz., about 1802.

from the deacons and congregation was read by Mr. Pierpoint. Mr. Gregson, another deacon, then presented Mr. Alexander with a purse of fifty sovereigns, together with a snuff-box from the little girls in the Sunday School. Mr. Greatbatch presented Mr. Alexander with a copy of the works of Andrew Fuller, which had been sent by Mr. Brooks, of Norwich.

1844—April 17th. Died, aged 86, Ann, widow of Robert Rimmer ; April 20, aged 84, Ellen, wife of John Baker ; and April 21st, aged 84, William Johnson, all of North Meols. They were all natives, and got their living from fishing. They had lived all their lives within a mile of each other.

—May 4th. The *Southport Visiter* established. On this date the first number was published, price (stamped) threepence. It was for several years published only during the summer months ; weekly, on Saturdays, from May to October.

—May 4th. Died, aged 43, the Hon. R. B. Wilbraham, M.P. for the division, and father of Lord Lathom. For the Parliamentary vacancy thus caused, there were two candidates, Mr. W. Brown, of Liverpool, the Free Trade candidate, and Mr. Entwistle, Protectionist. On May 23rd, Mr. Brown addressed a meeting of the electors from the balcony of the Victoria Hotel ; Samuel Lees, Esq., J.P., presided, the number present being about 600. The assembly was addressed by several gentlemen, one of whom was Richard Cobden, Esq., M.P. At the election Mr. Entwistle was returned by a majority of 598.

1844—Aug. 15th. The *Pearl* wrecked off Birkdale. The lifeboat was launched, but, on arriving at the scene, found no trace of the shipwrecked crew.

——September 7th. Amongst the visitors then staying at Claremont House, at that time kept by Mr. Michael Charlton, as a private hotel, were Lord Skelmersdale, the Hon. E. B. Wilbraham (the present Earl of Lathom), the Right Hon. Lord Stanley (now Earl of Derby), John Wilson-Patten, Esq., M.P. (now Lord Winmarleigh), the Hon. Mrs. Bootle-Wilbraham of Blyth and family, the Hon. Mrs. Arthur Lascelles and family, the Hon. Mrs. E. Bootle-Wilbraham of Lathom, the Hon. Miss Arden, and other members of the nobility.

——Sept. 9th. Sam Lover gave a concert in the Southport Assembly Rooms.

——Sept. 16th. A case was tried at the Preston County Court, in which the plaintiff, William Gregson, miller, of Churchtown, sued William Singleton and Thomas Stone, policemen, for abuse and false imprisonment, on the evening of the second day of the South-Lancashire Election, viz., May 28th. Briefly the circumstances were as follows: the plaintiff on the night in question purchased a quantity of lozenges and distributed them among a number of young people, and they, at Gregson's request, gave three cheers for "Brown and Free Trade," when the plaintiff was taken into custody on the charge of being riotous and disorderly. It was given in evidence that one of the officers struck the plaintiff and unnecessarily abused him. A verdict was given for the plaintiff, damages £9 19s. 11d.

1844—Sept. 19th. The Southport and Ormskirk Building Society founded.

———Two railways were this year projected, one from Southport to Euxton Junction, and one to Ormskirk.

1845—In the spring of this year the Southport Choral Society was formed.

———April 27th. The Rev. William Alexander, now aged 82 years, preached his farewell sermon as pastor of Churchtown Independent Chapel, after exactly 20 years' connection with that congregation. The Rector (Rev. Chas. Hesketh), with whom he was very friendly, begged him to retain his house (owned by the Rector) at a nominal rental of 10s. a year ; but Mr. Alexander replied that he could not be comfortable there, "for," said he, "my mouth must be shut, for were another minister to come here I could not preach in the neighbourhood, because it might draw some from the chapel, which I should be sorry to do." He did, however, stay until March, 1850, the rector refusing to take more rent than a mere acknowledgment.

———This year saw no less than six railways projected in connection with Southport. They were the "West-Lancashire, or Liverpool, Southport, and Preston Junction Railway," Thomas Weld Blundell, Esq., chairman ; "Manchester and Wigan Railway, with extensions to Southport," the Hon. Captain Carnegie, R.N., M.P., chairman ; the "West-Lancashire and North-Union Railway," Thomas Barnes, Esq., chairman ; "Liverpool, Ormskirk, and Preston Railway, with branches to Southport," William Fielden, Esq., chairman ; "Manchester,

Preston, Wigan, and Southport Railway," James Lees, Esq., chairman; and the "Southport and Rainford Junction Railway," Thos. Kershaw, Esq., of Ormskirk, interim secretary. These various schemes were projected, in consequence of the Committee of the House of Commons and the Board of Trade having declared it advisable for Southport to have a more direct line than the "Southport and Euxton Junction" proposed railway, which had been before Parliament that session.

——Sept. 23rd. A meeting of the ratepayers held in the Assembly Rooms, when it was resolved that "it is desirable that Southport should be a separate and distinct township for the management of its local affairs; and, to carry into effect that object, that an application be made in the next session of Parliament for an Act to obtain the necessary powers." Thirty gentlemen were appointed a committee to obtain the Act.

——Sept. 29th. Great fire at Claremont House, Promenade. There being no fire-engine in Southport, a mounted messenger was despatched to Ormskirk, and arrived there in 23 minutes. In an hour and forty minutes from the despatch of the messenger, the engines from Ormskirk had arrived, and were at work. Damage was done by the fire and water to the extent of £2,700.

——In this year the Rector, the Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A., bought from his brother, Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood, the greater portion of the baronet's share of the Manor of North Meols. The remainder Sir Peter sold to Charles Scarisbrick, Esq.

1845—Oct. Mr. Parkinson having renovated the Royal Hotel, or “Duke’s Folly,” had restored to him the license suspended in 1842.

——November. The Victoria Baths Co. bought from Charles Scarisbrick, Esq., the reversion of the land of the Promenade from Nevill Street to Seabank Road.

1846—Of the many railway schemes projected three reached the House of Commons, viz., the Grand Cross Railway (Liverpool, Southport and Preston, and Manchester and Southport), the West-Lancashire Coast Line, and the Liverpool, Ormskirk, and Preston Railway, with a branch to Southport. The latter passed without the Southport Branch. The other two were rejected for non-compliance with standing orders.

——June 18th. First Southport Improvement Act, giving 24 Commissioners, received Royal Assent. It cost £1,500. Under its powers the streets were first lighted, on Nov. 7th, by 34 naphtha lamps, and during the following year £2,000 was expended in improving Lords Street. Rates were laid in September at 1s. 6d. in the £ on a rateable value of £11,000 according to a new assessment, the district having previously been rated at £8,000. Mr. W. Wales was the first chairman. Twenty-three persons were named in the Act as the first Commissioners, viz., the Revs. C. Hesketh, W. Docker, J. Jackson, G. Greatbatch, and J. Hill; Messrs. W. Wales, James Longton, M.D., Richard Wright (agent), Richard Wright (builder), William Ball (captain), William Jolley, Bennett Smith (captain), Singleton Cooper, Samuel Whiteley, William Linaker, William Gregson, Thomas Hulme, Richard

- Lewis, Charles Clough (surgeon), William Walker, James Mawdesley, Richard Ball (brewer), and William Tyrer. Only one (Mr. Tyrer) of these gentlemen now survives.
- July 5th. New organ opened at Christ Church.
- July 17th. Three Marshside fishermen, Richard and Gilbert Wright (father and son), and Thos. Bond drowned, through a sudden gust of wind upsetting their boat.
- August 8th. Terrible thunderstorm, during which "Belle Vue" was struck by lightning. A servant in the act of closing a window had her hand scorched by the electric fluid.
- September. Holy Trinity Church Clothing Club established.
- Sept. 8th. Annual sports, horse races being this year substituted for boat races.
- 1847**—April. At the Kirkdale Quarter Sessions, two boys, named William Huyton, aged 16, and Thomas Rafferty, aged 13, were convicted of housebreaking at Southport, and were each sentenced to *fifteen years' transportation*.
- May 4th. Died at Churchtown, aged 92 years, Ellen Hooton, widow. She stated, on her death-bed, that she was leaving descendants exactly the same in number as those of Jacob who accompanied the patriarch into Egypt.
- May. A public clock fixed in the tower of Holy Trinity Church, at the cost of T. T. Taylor, Esq.
- June 2nd. The local dispensary had practically lapsed, and on this date a meeting was held to revive the society. The Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A., was elected President, Thomas Hulme, Esq., Treasurer ; R. Johnson,

Esq., Secretary. Messrs. Walker, Garside, and Kershaw were appointed dispensers, in turn of six months each. The medical officers were Messrs. Matthias, Docker (Mondays and Thursdays), Lee (Tuesday and Friday), and Barron (Wednesday and Saturday).

—June 26th. A case came before the Lord Chancellor in which the plaintiffs were Lord Camoys and Elizabeth Tempest, widow ; the defendants being Thomas Weld-Blundell and others. It was an appeal against the decision of the Vice-Chancellor, affirmed by Lord Lyndhurst. The facts of the case were that Charles Robert Blundell by his will made in the year 1834 gave large estates in Lancashire to John Gladstone and others, in trust for the second son of Edward Weld, of Lulworth Castle, for life, and after his decease upon trust for the first and every other son of the said second son of Edward Weld severally, successively, &c., and for default of such issue upon trust for the third and every other son or sons (except the eldest) of the said Edward Weld, with remainder to the younger brothers of the said Edward Weld and their issue, with remainder to the second and every other son and sons (except the eldest) of Lady Stourton, wife of Lord Stourton, and one of the sisters of the said Edward Weld. At the date of the will there was no such person as "Edward Weld" of Lulworth. There had been a Thomas Weld, who, having joined the Church of Rome, had been made a Cardinal, and his brother Joseph Weld had become the possessor of Lulworth Castle. There had been an Edward born between these persons, but he had died a bachelor in

1796. Mr. Joseph Weld had three sons, the eldest of which sons was baptised Edward Joseph, the second was named Thomas, and the third Joseph. Thomas, the second son of Joseph Weld of Lulworth Castle, claimed the estate, as all the description in the will answered to him except the name, which he alleged to have been a mistake. The judges decided that the whole will must be considered together, and that on the face of that instrument there appeared enough to explain the ambiguity as to the name of the second son, and to show that the decision of the court below was correct. Verdict for the defendants.

———July 2nd. This year the West-Lancashire (Coast Line) Railway Bill was withdrawn from Parliament in favour of the Liverpool, Crosby, and Southport Railway, which received the Royal Assent July 2nd. The Manchester, Wigan, and Southport line was passed July 22nd.

———August 15th. Hoghton Street Wesleyan Chapel opened by the Rev. E. Walker, chairman of the Liverpool district. The foundation stone had been laid on March 17th, by Dr. Peter Wood, and the building erected at a cost of £1,400 by Mr. R. Wright, from designs by Mr. Thomas Withnell. The Rev. Dr. Newton preached on September 14th, on behalf of the building fund, when the collections amounted to £128 11s. 1½d.

———September. Several of the tradesmen in "Lords Street" this year made an attempt to change the name to "Broadway," and in September memorialised the Commissioners on the subject. The Commissioners, however, declined to make the change as desired.

1847—During this year an ineffectual attempt to get a “repeal of the Union ” with Ormskirk, was made in respect to County Courts, Government tax, Appeal Courts, &c.

1848—January 1st. A meeting of the shareholders of the Liverpool, Crosby and Southport Railway, held in the Clarendon Rooms, Liverpool, Wm. Blundell, Esq., chairman of the directors, in the chair. It was resolved to at once commence making the line between Waterloo and Southport, and on March 24th the first sod was cut. This portion of the line was completed in June, and on the 21st of July the Government inspection and formal opening took place. On July 31st trains began to run, the Southport station being at Eastbank Street. From Waterloo, passengers were taken on to Liverpool by coach. Messrs. Holme and M'Cormick were the contractors for the line.

——June. London Street Market opened. In February the bowling green of the Assembly Rooms was rented by the Commissioners from Mr. James Mawdesley, for the purpose of a market, and a contract let to Mr. Richard Wright, the total cost to be £600. Mr. Thomas Withnell was the architect, the site being 86 feet by 82 feet in extent. There were 28 covered stalls round the sides, with a covered shed in the centre, 36 by 15 feet.

——August 5th. Churchtown Rechabite tent formed.

——August 31st. “Weld-Blundell Estates Bill ” received the Royal Assent. Mr. Weld-Blundell in the following month offered the land of Birkdale on long leases, renewable, at reasonable rates.

1848—August 31st. The *Ocean Monarch* burnt at sea. Fourteen bodies were washed ashore at Southport and Birkdale.

———September. At this time the population of Birkdale was between 600 and 700.

———Rev. W. G. Nevatt ordained Independent minister at Churchtown.

———Dec. 4th. Died, Mr. Bartin Haigh. Mr. Haigh was a Liverpool merchant, and built Brunswick Villa, Manchester Road, where he resided many years. In 1830 he assisted liberally in the erection of Churchtown Independent Chapel, and some years later he built "Hall's Chapel," in what is now Hall Street, for the Rev. Mr. Hall, a Church Clergyman, who, having adopted Calvinistic doctrines, had sold his living and retired to Southport. Mr. Haigh had endeavoured to persuade the Rev. G. Greatbatch to allow Mr. Hall to join him in the pastorate of Eastbank Lane Chapel, but Mr. Greatbatch declined from conscientious reasons. Mr. Hall's congregation was always small, and very soon dwindled to the least of numbers. This was in spite of great endeavours on the part of Mr. Haigh, who in disgust retired again to Liverpool, where he died as stated. He left an annuity of £50 to the Rev. W. Alexander, to whom he had been a devoted friend for over 40 years. Two paintings of Hall's Chapel are in the Atkinson Art Gallery.

1849—April 2nd. The Liverpool, Ormskirk and Preston Railway opened. Coaches ran between Southport and Ormskirk in connection with the trains.

1849—May 27th. Independent Chapel, Eastbank Street, opened after enlargement.

———July 9th. Rev. W. Docker, first incumbent of Christ's Church, died, aged 60. The rev. gentleman had been connected with the town nearly 35 years, and took a prominent part in establishing it.

———August 3rd. Foundation stone of a Primitive Methodist Chapel at Banks laid by Mr. Lowe, on land given by Charles Scarisbrick, Esq.

———October 16th. Meetings of the Commissioners first thrown open to the local press.

———Nov. 4th. Rev. Benjamin Strettel Clarke, B.A., "read himself in" as incumbent of Christ Church.

———Nov. 10th. Southport first lit with hydro-carbon gas. The Commissioners adopted Mr. Stephen White's patent, the works being completed at a cost of less than £3,500.

———November 14th, the fishing boat *New Ann* run down at sea. The crew, consisting of three men and a boy, were all drowned. Two of the men left families, on whose behalf a subscription was raised.

1850—March 23rd. The ship *Howard*, of and for Liverpool from Mobile, wrecked on "Angry Brow." The crew, twenty-three in number, rescued by the Southport life-boat.

———March 26th. New service of communion plate presented to the Rev. B. S. Clarke, B.A. (late of Thorp Hesley, near Rotherham), the new incumbent of Christ Church. Dr. Mort, on behalf of the congregation, made the presentation.

- 1850—May 17th. The Lancashire Hussars, 150 strong, paid their first visit to Southport, under the command of Major Sir John Gerard, Bart.
- August 22nd. At the half-yearly meeting of the Liverpool, Crosby, and Southport Railway, it was stated that the half-year's receipts amounted to £4,935. 19s. 2d. and the expenses to £2,716. 18s. 6d., leaving a surplus of £2,219. 6s. 8d.
- July 16th. Terrible thunderstorm, during which two young men were killed at Churchtown, and several other persons injured. Considerable damage was done to property in Churchtown and Crossens.
- August 8th. Mr. Weld-Blundell having now got peaceable possession of his property, encouraged building in "Birkdale Park," as the property on the seaward side of the railway was called. The first builder to commence operations was Mr. John Aughton, and on August 8th the first stones of what is known as Lulworth House, were laid. After this, building proceeded very rapidly.
- October 1st. The Liverpool, Crosby, and Southport Railway completed to Sandhills, and trains run direct to Liverpool. A service of trains was also established between Southport and Manchester *via* Sandhills.
- Window tax paid by Southport this year, £911. 10s. 4d. The remainder of the parish paid £44. 14s. 7d., nearly half the latter sum being paid by two persons.
- 1851—January 15th. The fishing-boat *Joseph and Mary* wrecked. Richard Alty and Peter Rimmer drowned.
- March. Methodist Reform Agitation. This agitation had at length borne fruit in Southport. In March

of this year, Mr. Hugh Hodge, Mr. Oliver Holden, and about 30 other supporters of Messrs. Everett, &c., were expelled from the connexion.

—April 3rd. Christ Church re-opened after alterations, which had cost £1,000. The preachers were the Rev. Canon Hugh Stowell, of Salford, and the Rev. W. Pollock, of St. Mark's, Liverpool.

—April. Census. Number of inhabited houses in Southport, 878; rest of the parish, 717; total, 1595. Inhabitants in Southport—Male, 1,937; female, 2,829; rest of parish, male, 2,001; female, 1,925; total, 8,692. There were 455 between the ages of 60 and 70; 132 between 80 and 90; and above 90 there were 6 persons. Two over 90 died the week preceding the census.

—June. Charles Scarisbrick, Esq., returned 15 per cent. to his tenants paying over £20 farm rental.

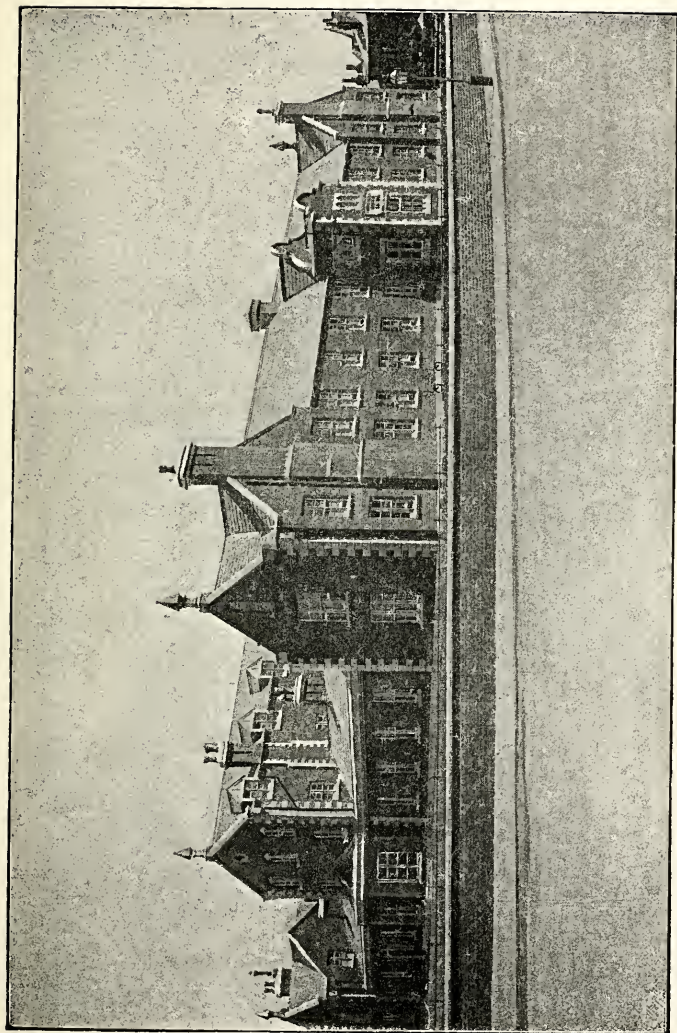
—July 25th. Mr. C. E. Driffield elected coroner for the division.

—August 4th. Oddfellows' anniversary. A procession was formed, and walked to Birkdale to inspect some houses being erected out of the funds of the society.

—August 22nd. The railway having been continued to Chapel Street, the station there was opened for traffic on this day. The company paid their first dividend of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. out of the profits for the half-year ending June 30th.

—August 31st. The Rev. W. Alexander, now aged 89, preached his last sermon in Eastbank Street Congregational Chapel, from I. Peter, 1, 19, "The precious blood of Christ."

- 1851—September 6th. The commissioners bought Springfield Cottage and grounds for £840, as a site for the Town Hall.
- 1852—January 12th. The Manchester, Wigan, and Southport Railway Company having made their line to Wigan had introduced a bill into Parliament, asking for powers to abandon the Wigan to Southport Branch. On the above date a public meeting was held to protest against the proposed abandonment, and the bill was soon after withdrawn.
- Jany. 5th. Southport Young Men's Christian Association founded. President, Rev. Chas. Hesketh, M.A.; vice-Presidents, all the local clergy and ministers who joined the society; treasurer, Mr. J. Kershaw; secretaries, Messrs W. Mocatta and G. Greatbatch.
- February. A branch of Messrs. Lawe and Sidgreaves' (Preston) Bank opened in Southport—the first bank in the town.
- April. Cannel gas first made in Southport, *vice* rosin gas, which had hitherto been used.
- April 15th to 21st. Postal statistics: Despatched from the Southport Post-office—letters, 4,705; newspapers, 129; books, 47. [*Vide* 1842, 1862, 1872, and 1882.]
- April. A committee formed to promote a pier at Southport.
- May 4th. The foundation stone of the Strangers' Charity, Seabank Road, laid by James Darwell, Esq. Mr. T. Withnell, architect; Mr. T. Stanley, builder.
- June 11th, "Flying Dutchmen" re-established on the shore.



STRANGERS' CHARITY.

1852—July 20th. Foundation stone of the Town Hall laid by the Rev. Jonathan Jackson, J.P., chairman of the Commissioners. Mr. Thomas Withnell was the architect, and Mr. Thomas Stanley the builder. The contract price was £2,249. Mr. Scarisbrick granted a lease of the ground for 999 years at £3 per annum. The occasion was looked upon as a red-letter day in the history of the town; there being a procession of Sunday School scholars, friendly societies, &c. After the ceremony there was a banquet at the Victoria Hotel.

—August 17th. Holy Trinity Church re-opened after enlargement and improvement, by the Rev. Canon Hugh McNeile, D.D.

—August. *Mandamus* issued against the Manchester and Southport Railway Company by the Court of Queen's Bench, compelling the construction of the Southport branch of the line.

—Sept. Rev. J. Lee, B.A., ordained minister of the Independent Chapel, Churchtown, on the resignation of the Rev. W. G. Nevatt.

—Sept. 9th. St. Marie's Catholic Church re-opened after alterations and enlargement. Mass was celebrated by the Right Rev. Dr. G. Brown, Bishop of Liverpool; sermon preached by Rev. Canon Goss, of St. Edmund's College, Liverpool, afterwards Bishop of the Diocese.

—Sept. 19th. Terrible thunderstorm. Miss Seed's house, in Seabank Road, struck by lightning, and great damage done. A gentleman (visitor) in the house was struck and rendered insensible.

1852—October. The Railway Hotel opened by Mr. Josiah Mather, the license being transferred from the “Blue Anchor” in Tithebarn Lane.

———Christmas-day. Terrific hurricane, which did immense damage in the town. One of the houses in Sutlej Terrace was unroofed, several buildings in the town and in Birkdale had their gable ends blown in. The Promenade slope opposite the Baths was destroyed, the “Cop” at Banks washed away, much damage done to the fishing fleet, several boats being destroyed, and the Spanish vessel *St. Catherina*, from Havannah to Liverpool with sugar, wrecked on the Horsebank. The crew were saved by the Southport lifeboat.

1853—April 23rd. The Wesleyan Reformers [now the United Methodist Free Church] opened the Old Dispensary as a chapel.

———June 1st. The Town Hall first occupied by the Commissioners, Magistrates, Police, &c. There was no formal ceremony on the occasion.

———June 13th. The Lancashire Hussars paid their second visit to Southport under the command of Captain F. S. Gerard, Sir John being ill.

———September 13th. Dr. Peter Wood elected Chairman of the Improvement Commissioners.

———September 14th. Mr. Singleton Cooper died, aged 61. This gentleman was one of the first Churchwardens of Holy Trinity Church, retaining his office till his death. He was also one of the first Improvement Commissioners, and filled many public offices. He had been a soldier, and served at the battle of Waterloo. He built all the

property in Manchester Road distinguished by the prefix of "Singleton."

1853—September. Southport divided from Ormskirk as a Wesleyan Circuit.

——November. The Southport Waterworks Company formed to bring water to Southport from Scarisbrick Windmill. The capital was limited to £12,000, and the area to North Meols, Birkdale, and Scarisbrick. Both capital and area have, however, been several times increased, and there are now pumping stations at Aughton and Scarisbrick. The present officials are Messrs. Samuel John Rofo, resident manager and engineer; Henry Rofo, general manager; and W. Harper (Bury), solicitor and secretary.

1854—January 5th. The first "Teetotal Dinner" in Southport, given by Mr. Walter Smith to his employes engaged in making the Manchester and Southport Railway. The *Visitor* in reporting the meeting prophesied that Mr. Smith would become "a conspicuous character in the history of North Meols."

——February 6th. A tea service presented by friends to Mr. John Aughton, who was described as "the founder of Birkdale Park," on his leaving this neighbourhood to undertake some large works in America.

——February 23rd. Drs. Peter Wood and William Mort appointed the first physicians to the Strangers' Charity, Seabank Road.

——February 28th. Died Sir John Gerard, Major-Commandant of the Lancashire Hussars, aged 50. He was succeeded by his brother, Sir Robert Tolver (afterwards Lord) Gerard.

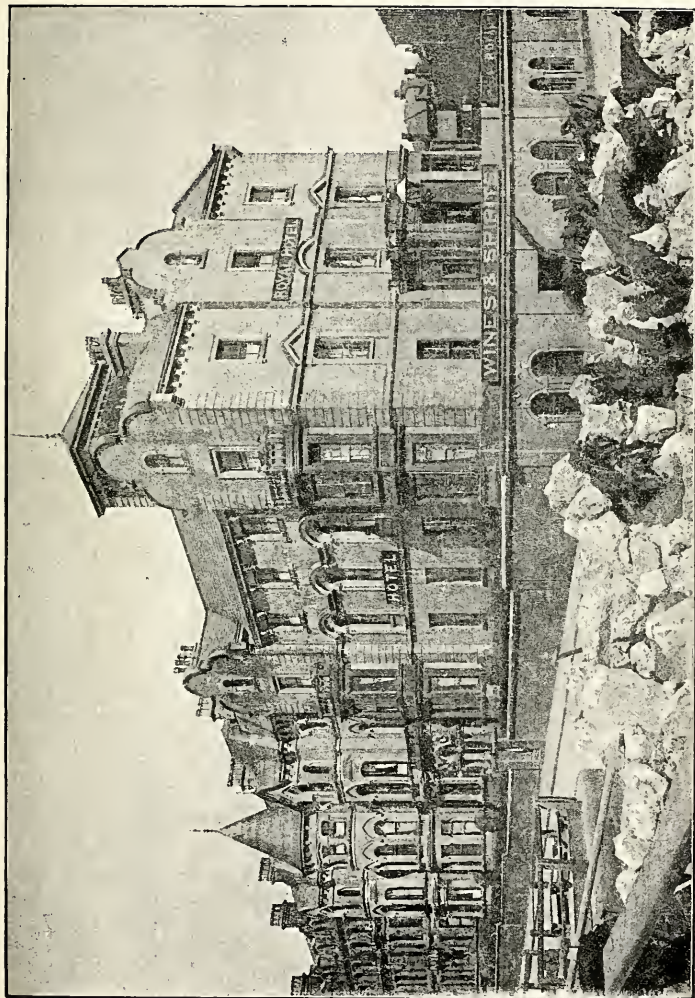
1854—March 13th. A public meeting of ratepayers held to consider the advisability of adopting the Public Health Act. A resolution in the negative was adopted.

——March 23rd. Died in Union Street, aged 83, John Hurst. He had been a sick member on the books of the Ormskirk Catholic Sick and Burial Society since September, 1808, receiving 7s. per week the first year and 3s. 6d. per week afterwards—over £420.

——March. The license attached to the Original Hotel transferred to the Royal Hotel, Promenade, which had been erected by Mr. Livesey, of Scarisbrick, from plans by Mr. Thomas Withnell. This was the original license granted to the South Port Hotel. Mr. T. Parker was the first tenant, and he was succeeded by Mr. Henry Heys, who was followed by Mr. George Alsbury. In 1880 Mr. J. Charles Seidenstricker, the present proprietor, took possession, and he has succeeded in making it one of the most popular houses in the North of England. It is a favourite hotel for all the leading members of the dramatic profession, and it is very rare to find its list of visitors without the names of some members of the nobility. It overlooks the Winter Gardens and the Marine Park. There is a very fine billiard-room with two excellent tables, and the smoke-room is the resort of the *élite* of the neighbourhood.

——April 17th. John B. Gough, the great temperance orator, addressed a public meeting in the Town Hall.

——April 19th. Died at Fair Lawn, aged 90, Richard Saunders, Esq., father of Mrs. Hesketh.



ROYAL HOTEL.

1854—April 25th. Foundation Stone of new schools in connection with Christ Church laid by Rev. B. S. Clarke. They were opened in the following September. Mr. T. Withnell was the architect, and Mr. Richard Wright the builder.

—October. The license of the Royal Hotel having been transferred to the hotel now bearing that name, the “Duke’s Folly” was this month demolished. A stone tablet was found at the back of the house (and is now to be seen in the memorial lamp near the same spot) bearing the following inscription :—

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

———— I 7 9 2 —————

THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT

In MEMORY of D. W. SUTTON,
of *North Meols* who was the
first Founder & Executor of
South-Port which was call’d his
Folly for Many Years and it proves
that his Foresight was his Wisdom
which should be remembered with
Gratitude by the *LORDS* of this
Manor and the Inhabitants of this

~~~~~ PLACE ALSO ~~~~~

This tablet bears strong evidence of being the “Old Duke’s” own cutting—he being the principal gravestone cutter of his day. The lettering and style of this stone are very similar to his own known work.



- 1854**—Nov. Over £1000 subscribed to the patriotic fund, for the relief of the widows and orphans of the Crimean heroes, by the inhabitants of Southport and district.
- 1855**—January 9th. Festivities at Churchtown to commemorate the coming of age of Mr. (afterwards Colonel) Edward Fleetwood Hesketh, son of the Rector and Lord of the Manor.
- January 18th. Died, Thomas Kirkland Glazebrook, Esq., the first historian (1809 and 1826) of Southport, aged 74 years.
- January 23rd. Died, aged 92 years, Rev. William Alexander, for 60 years an active Congregational minister.
- February. Severe frost ; the Bog Hole frozen over, and the foreshore covered with a sheet of ice.
- April 9th. The Southport and Manchester Railway opened, with a junction at Burscough to the Liverpool, Ormskirk, and Preston line. The next day the first accident happened on the new line, an engine getting off the rails at New Lane Station. The Ormskirk and Southport coaches were now discontinued.
- The “Lodge of Unity,” No. 613, the first lodge of Freemasons in the town, dedicated by Bro. Perrin, P.G.S.W. of West Lancaster.
- July 9th. Died, aged 78, the Rev. John Bumstead, Wesleyan Minister, in the 51st year of his ministry.
- July. Mr. Tracy Turnerelli delivered a lecture on his “Anecdotal Conversations” during sixteen years’ residence in the Russian Empire.
- September 26th. New organ opened in the Wesleyan Chapel, Hoghton Street ; cost £300.

1855—November. Stained glass window erected in Holy Trinity Church in memory of Mrs. Mary Ann Gaskell.

———December 9th. Died, at Birkdale, the Rev. James Newsham, Roman Catholic Priest, under whose ministry St. Marie's Church, Seabank Road, was built.

———December 11th. Died suddenly, aged 57, Mr. Samuel Newsham, solicitor, deputy magistrates' clerk.

1856—March. From the opening of the railway to Burscough from Southport there had been a strong competition for the traffic. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Co. (working the Liverpool, Crosby, and Southport line), and the East Lancashire Railway Co. (working the Ormskirk line), had several times reduced the fares between Southport and Liverpool, until they had got down to sixpence single and ninepence return journey. In March, however, the two companies came to an agreement by which the fares were fixed at—single tickets, 1/6; return 2/6.

———May 1st. Jubilee celebration in connection with the Strangers' Charity. The proceedings commenced with Divine Service at Christ Church, where the Rev. Dr. McNeile preached from Philippians ii. 5. A luncheon followed at the new hospital, the patients having a special "Menu," and the proceedings closed with a sermon by the rector. The collections that day realised £926. 2s. 6d. for the charity.

———May 29th. Peace rejoicings; procession of the inhabitants, tea party, Friendly Society festivities, and grand illuminations at night, with fireworks on the shore. Mr. W. Linaker, at Churchtown, entertained 13 old women whose united ages amounted to 910 years.

- 1856**—June 14th. A fishing boat at Marshside, the property of John Wright (Manty) and his son, with all its tackle, nets, &c., destroyed by fire.
- July 1st. Severe frost in Southport, doing great injury to vast quantities of potatoes.
- July 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Bazaar held in the Town Hall in aid of a proposed Church for Birkdale. The proceeds amounted to £636. 18s. 10½d.
- August 6th. Miss Debonaire Fleetwood Hesketh married at Churchtown to Mr. William McInroy.
- September 13th. Foundation stone of St. James' Church, Birkdale, laid by the Rev. Charles Hesketh, rector. Mr. Alfred Rimmer, architect; Mr. Richard Wright, builder; Rev. Benjamin Swift, LL.B., vicar-designate.
- October 9th. The Ormskirk and Southport Agricultural Society formed at a meeting held in the Town Hall, Ormskirk. The necessary resolution moved by Mr. Robert Mawdsley, seconded by Mr. James Hunt, of Southport. Mr. Mawdsley was appointed secretary—a post he retained for thirty years.
- December 18th. Died, Mr. Josiah Mather, first owner of the Railway Hotel, and one of the Improvement Commissioners.
- 1857**—January 1st. Sixty-seven poor persons over 60 years of age entertained in Christ Church Schools. Five were over 80, and eight others (over 80) who had been invited were absent from infirmity.
- January 9th. The smack *Mary Ann*, of Runcorn, wrecked on the Horsebank. Crew of three rescued by the Marshside boats.

1857—January 20th. Holy Trinity New Day and Sunday Schools opened. Mr. John Aughton, builder; cost £2,000.

—February 23rd. The Rev. W. A. Mocatta, curate of Christ Church, presented to the perpetual curacy of Bispham by the Rev. Chas. Hesketh, patron. Mr. Mocatta (brother-in-law to the vicar of Christ Church) had been connected with this district seven years, and on leaving was the recipient of an unusually large number of presentations.

—March 11th. Jubilee meeting of the Congregationalists at Churchtown. The Rev. Geo. Greatbatch, the first minister, was present.

—March 15th. Great storm, in which three vessels came ashore. The *Melbourne*, a fine iron ship, was one of the three. Whilst she was in distress eight of the crew left her in their own boats and were all drowned.

—April. A labourer, William Abram, draining on Hesketh Moss, found a number of ancient coins embedded three feet deep in the moss. One was of the reign of the Emperor Vespasian, another of Trajan.

—July. New window of stained glass, the gift of J. H. Wrigley, Esq., placed in St. John's Church, Crossens.

—July 14th. St. James' Church, Birkdale, consecrated by the Bishop of Chester. His Lordship preached in the morning, and the Rev. Canon Hugh Stowell in the evening. The church and parsonage cost £3,368.

—August 28th. Portrait of Dr. James Longton, 37 years surgeon to the Strangers' Charity, presented to the institution by 75 friends.

- 1857—Oct. 5th. Mr. John A. Robinson appointed actuary to the North Meols Savings Bank.
- Oct. 7th. Day of humiliation in respect to the Indian Mutiny, observed in all the places of worship in the parish.
- Oct. 8th. Died, aged 42, James Darwell, Esq., of Beach Priory, treasurer to the Strangers' Charity, and a leading spirit in all works of benevolence.
- Nov. 12th. The Temperance Hall opened by a tea meeting. It was built (on 880 square yards of leasehold land) by Mr. John Aughton. Architect, Mr. William Hodge ; cost, £697. 16s. 9½d.
- Nov. 29th. A lady, 102 years old, preached at the Friends' Meeting House, Lord Street.
- December 2nd. Bescar Lane Station destroyed by fire.
- December 2nd. Mr. Edward Fleetwood Hesketh called to the bar of the Inner Temple.
- December 23rd. New market opened in Chapel Street. It was built by the Commissioners, on glebe land belonging to Christ Church.
- 1858—February 2nd. Lord Panmure, Secretary at War, having offered to the town a gun captured from the Russians in the Crimea, on condition of the town paying for a gun-carriage on which to mount it, the Improvement Commissioners decided to have an iron carriage at a cost of £16. It arrived in June, and on the 29th of that month a public holiday was held, a procession paraded the streets, and was followed by a luncheon. The gun—an 18 pounder—was fixed in front of the Town Hall, and was fired several times by Captains Barton, R.N., Wm. Ball, and Rockliffe. It is now in Hesketh Park.

1858—February. Great distress prevailed amongst the handloom weavers of Churchtown. A subscription list was opened for their relief, and about £150 collected on their behalf. A Masonic Ball was held on Feb. 5th, and the proceeds (£21) given to the distressed weavers' fund. From this time the weaving industry declined in Churchtown. Before it had time to revive from the depression existing in 1858, the American War broke out, and afterwards weaving entirely disappeared from Churchtown.

——February 12th. The freehold of the glebe land in Chapel Street, on which the market had been built, conveyed to the Commissioners in exchange for the reversion of a plot in Wellington Road (Delhi Terrace); the Ecclesiastical Commissioners' rules preventing the sale, but allowing of the exchange, of lands belonging to the Church.

——March 1st. The Southport and St. Helens railway opened.

——March 1st. Dr. Peter Wood, chairman of the Improvement Commissioners, placed on the Commission of the Peace for the County.

——March 15th. Died, Peter Ball, aged 58. "Peter the Bellman" had held office and been a conspicuous character in the town over 30 years; his poverty, however, was so abject that a subscription had to be raised to bury him.

——April 7th. Dr. James Longton died suddenly, aged 61. He was a native of Ainsdale, and had practised in Southport over 40 years, commencing his professional career in Churchtown in 1816, being the first medical man that the parish could boast. He was named in the

- Southport Improvement Act, 1846, as one of the first Commissioners, and was for many years surgeon to the local Dispensary and the Strangers' Charity. The inscription on his portrait in the latter institution states that he held office for 37 years. At his funeral all the places of business in the town were closed. He was buried at Formby. His nephew, Dr. E. J. Longton, was his successor.
- July 25th. The schooner *Mineral*, of Dalton-in-Furness, wrecked on Ted's bank. The captain (John Latham) and crew rescued by the Southport lifeboat.
- August. Rev. Thomas Akroyd appointed minister at the Wesleyan Chapel.
- August 1st. Died, aged 43, Mr. William Mawdsley, founder of the Temperance Society and Band of Hope for Southport district. The drinking fountain in London Square was erected by temperance friends in memory of Mr. Mawdsley.
- August 17th. The first Agricultural Show held in Southport, on land in London Street belonging to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company. Over £260 was taken at the gates.
- August. "The Southport Hymn Book," which had been compiled by the local clergy, first used in all the North Meols Churches.
- August. Mr. Fawcett Smith obtained a license, and opened the Assembly Rooms of the Scarisbrick Arms as a theatre.
- August. The wooden pump at Churchtown replaced by an iron one, the gift of Richard Pendlebury, Esq., of Radcliffe, the "under-sheriff" for the year.
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1858—September 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th. Bazaar held in the Town Hall on behalf of the Parochial National Schools, Churchtown, and the enlargement of the Parish Church. The proceeds for the four days amounted to £543. 10s. 1½d.

—September 28th. Dr. Blumberg admitted a member of the Royal College of Physicians, England; the first foreign M.D. ever admitted to that college.

—November 17th. Died, the Rev. John Phillips, Wesleyan Minister, aged 88. He had been 65 years in the ministry, and was preaching in the days of John Wesley.

—November. Henry Clarke, Esq., Lark Hill, gave to the town several drinking fountains. The first was fixed in the churchyard wall, at the junction of Manchester Road and Hoghton Street, another at the market in Chapel Street, and a third near the Union Hotel.

—November 19th. The Improvement Commissioners memorialised the Lord Chancellor in favour of a separate County Court for Southport.

—November. In one week there died four persons aged respectively 85, 88, 88, and 97. Total 358 years, or an average of 89½ years.

—December 12th. Lord Skelmersdale (now Earl of Lathom) attained his majority. He had succeeded his grandfather, the first Baron Skelmersdale, in April, 1853. On his coming of age there were great rejoicings throughout the neighbourhood.

—December 14th. Died, aged 58, Mr. Richd. Wright, of Hoghton Street. This gentleman was one of the

Commissioners "named in the Act," and was the builder of most of the erections in the town.

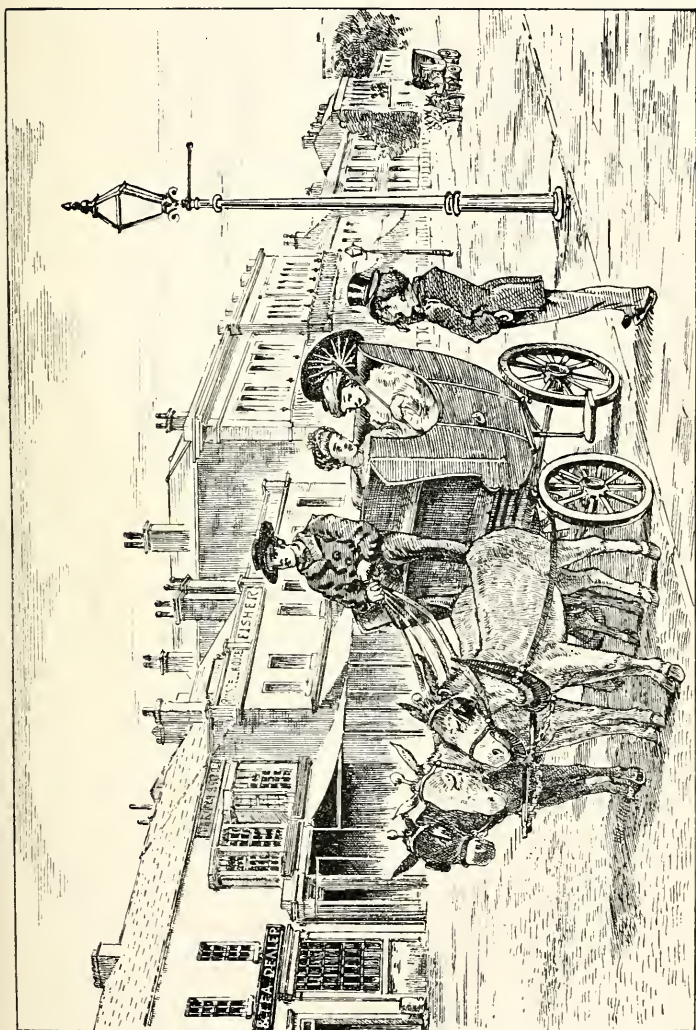
——December 22nd. Heavy W.S.W. gale, which did serious damage to the Promenade wall. The tide rose several feet above the expected measurement.

1859—January 24th. Very high tide, which made serious havoc on the Promenade between Nevill Street and Seabank Road.

——February 3rd. Died, aged 43, George Robertson, Esq., of the Grange, Row Lane, son-in-law of the Rev. Chas. Hesketh.

——February. Mr. Edward Jump received several presents on leaving Southport to become scripture reader at St. Jude's, Liverpool. Mr. Jump, a native of Southport, was a teacher and active worker in connection with Christ Church Schools, and was a young man of much promise. The Hon. and Rev. Dr. Waldegrave, Bishop of Carlisle, afterwards heard of Mr. Jump's work in Liverpool, and sent for him to visit Carlisle. In Liverpool he had studied much, along with the curate of the parish, from whom he had learned the classical languages. On reaching Carlisle the Lord Bishop asked him a number of questions, and ultimately surprised Mr. Jump by offering to ordain him. It was a difficult offer to accept, but was made possible by his friends, and the Bishop not only ordained him, but gave him a living, and was his friend as long as his Lordship lived. Mr. Jump is now vicar of St. Paul's, Bolton.

——March 17th. A public meeting was held, Dr. Peter Wood, J.P., chairman of the Improvement Commissioners,



LORD STREET, 1859.



in the chair, to consider the question of building a pier. It was decided to form a company with a capital of £8,000, and at once proceed with the erection.

———March 31st. The price of gas reduced to 5s. 10d. per 1,000 feet.

———April. General election. On the 14th, Messrs. Egerton and Legh, Conservative candidates, addressed the electors of Southport. On the 25th, Messrs. Cheetham and Heywood, Liberal candidates, appealed to the voters of the district at a meeting in the Town Hall. The returns of the Southport polling district were given as follows:—Egerton, 288; Legh, 276; Heywood, 109; Cheetham, 105.

———June 7th. Heavy thunderstorm. Rainfall for the day 1 $\frac{7}{10}$  inches.

———June 9th. New schools opened in connection with the Parish Church, Churchtown.

———June 24th. Died, aged 77, Ralph Greenough, Esq., J.P., of Belle Vue, senior magistrate of the district.

———July 14th. The Southport Rifle Volunteer Corps (13th Lancashire) formed. W. McInroy, Esq., chosen first captain, Dr. Barron, lieutenant, and Mr. J. A. Robinson, ensign.

———August 14th. First pile of the Southport pier driven, in the presence of a large crowd.

———September 9th. "Eccles Farm" destroyed by fire.

———September 26th. Rev. Thomas J. Clarke licensed to the curacy of Christ Church.

———October 26th. Severe storm, which did great damage to the Congregational Schools, Chapel Street,

then in course of erection. This was the storm in which the *Royal Charter* was wrecked off the coast of North Wales. Amongst the passengers who lost their lives in that vessel were Mr. William Kirkbride, of Southport (aged 37), and his two sons, William, aged 10, and James, aged 8 years.

——October 27th. Foundation stone of Mornington Road Chapel laid by Dr. Peter Wood, J.P.

1860—January 21st. The greatest storm for 17 years. Two houses in Duke Street and one in Back Lord Street [Stanley Street] razed to the ground, and much other damage done.

——February. The “Duke’s Monument,” Duke Street, erected by the Commissioners.

——February. A drinking fountain to the memory of Anne, wife of the Rev. B. Swift, LL.B., and daughter of J. H. Wrigley, Esq., erected in Lulworth Road, adjoining St. James’ Churchyard. It bore a Latin inscription, but the stone, being of a very perishable nature, quickly wore away, and several years ago a slate slab bearing an English translation of the original inscription was inserted.

——February 26th. The new Congregational Schools, Chapel Street, opened.

——March 3rd. Died, aged 59, Mr. Thomas Withnell, of London Street, architect of nearly all the public buildings then in the town.

——March 8th. At a meeting held in Holy Trinity Church Schools, it was decided to establish a Sanatorium for children between the ages of four and thirteen. Dr. Blumberg was the promoter.

1860—April 12th. The first “Southport Clerical Conference” held in the Town Hall, under the presidency of the Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A., Rector. Nearly 200 clergymen attended.

—April 19th. Miss Hesketh, eldest daughter of the rector, married to John Bibby, Esq., Lark Hill, Liverpool. Great rejoicings at Churchtown.

—May 6th. Died, aged 60, Charles Scarisbrick, Esq., one of the Lords of the Manor.

—May 7th. St. Cuthbert’s Parish Church dismantled previous to rebuilding.

—May 12th. The remains of Charles Scarisbrick, Esq., interred at the Roman Catholic Chapel, Bescar. The “Squire” had left most eccentric directions as to his funeral. The coffin was to be carried in a direct line to the place of burial, and in carrying out these instructions it became necessary to cut down hedges, cover up ditches, cross a meadow, pass through a field of wheat and a potato field, through a garden and the wall of the chapel yard. He died possessed of an estate estimated to be worth nearly three millions, the entailed property passing to his sister, Lady Hunloke.

—May 15th. Wesleyan District Meeting held in Hoghton Street Chapel.

—June 6th. Married in the open air at Churchtown, on the site of the Parish Church, by the Rev. Charles Hesketh, rector, Mr. Thomas Rigbye, of Croston, to Miss Jane Blundell, of Churchtown. At this time the church had been pulled down (except the spire and one corner of the church—to the doorway) for rebuilding and enlarge-



ment, and the debris was cleared away from the altar that the wedding might take place.

———July. Christ Church enlarged, giving 500 additional sittings. A stained glass window was at the same time put in, to the memory of Mr. Richard Wright, builder.

———July. The "Whitworth gun" tried on the Birkdale shore, in the presence of a vast number of professional and scientific persons.

———August 2nd. The Southport pier opened, the length being 1,200 yards. At the shore end it was 13 feet and at the sea end 22 feet from the level of the sands to the girders, with an additional three feet to the flooring. Mr. James Brunlees was the engineer; Messrs. W. & J. Galloway, of Manchester, being the contractors. To ensure the stability of the undertaking, the capital of the company had been increased from £8,000 to £10,000, the contract price being £8,700. The opening was made the occasion of a grand gala, with procession, banquet, illuminations, fireworks, ball, &c. It was the first of Southport's many limited liability companies. At the opening ceremony the Chairman of the Company (Dr. Barron) said "the pier had mainly originated with Mr. Boothroyd, who, with indomitable energy and perseverance, had steadily pursued his object and brought it into shape."

———August 15th. The second Ormskirk and Southport Agricultural Show held at Southport. Over 7,000 persons were present.

———August 16th. Lord Skelmersdale [now Earl of Lathom] married to Lady Alice Villiers, second daughter of the Earl of Clarendon.

1860—August 26th. Two vessels wrecked on this coast, the *Hope*, of Dublin, with a crew of three, and the *Britannia*, of Preston, with two men. All the lives were saved by local fishermen, but both vessels were totally lost.

—Sept. 11th and 12th. First annual contest of the Southport Rifle Association. One of the competitors (William Fisher, junr., of Kirkham) was drowned by the upsetting of a boat as he was returning to Lytham. A fortnight later the "Great Newton Review Rifle Contest" took place on the Southport rifle range.

—Oct. 6th. A silver bugle presented to the 13th L.R.V., by Miss Bridson, on behalf of her father, Thomas Ridgway Bridson, Esq.

—Oct. 7th. Letters patent granted to Lady Hunloke, "widow of Sir Thomas Windsor Hunloke, Bart., deceased, and eldest daughter of Thomas Eccleston, late of Scarisbrick, Esq., and sister and co-heir of Charles Scarisbrick, formerly Charles Eccleston, and after Charles Dicconson, late of Scarisbrick, Esq., both also deceased, to take, use, and bear the surname and arms of Scarisbrick only."

—December 29th. Terrific snowstorm. A train from Southport to Liverpool snowed up quarter of a mile beyond Birkdale Station. The engine was uncoupled, and forced its way about a mile, and then returned for the carriages, but could not get within ten yards of the train it had left only a few minutes earlier. Information was conveyed to the Southport station-master, and he despatched another engine, but that was brought to a standstill a few yards beyond Eastbank Street bridge. A train with two engines arrived from Liverpool, and

one of these engines was despatched to relieve the blockaded train, but it could not get within fifteen yards of its predecessor ; so a fourth engine was sent, and it ran off the rails just outside the station. The passengers, forty in number, were afterwards got out of the train, and attempts made to find them accommodation in the neighbourhood. A cottager, near the scene of the blockade, was appealed to, and an offer made to supply coals from the engine ; but he refused to give any help, remarking, " I have got my feet wet, and they must get their's." The Park Hotel was next tried, and Mr. Marchbank, the proprietor, did all he could for the benighted passengers, but the water-pipes were frozen and the beds were damp, so that only temporary shelter was available here. It was found impossible to get a vehicle from Southport to Birkdale, so the unfortunate passengers had to make their way as best they could into Southport, where they were accommodated at the Scarisbrick Arms and Railway Hotels till the next afternoon (Sunday). On the Sunday morning a large gang of men were set to work to clear the line, and by four o'clock—after a delay of 21 hours—a train was despatched to Liverpool. In those days (and for many years afterwards) the mails were brought from Liverpool every morning by a mail cart. On the Sunday morning (Dec. 30) the driver left Liverpool as usual, but on arriving at Aintree his vehicle got fast in the snow, and the horse could move it neither one way or the other. He obtained help, and, turning round, returned to Liverpool. He was afterwards sent, with the bags, by train *viâ* Ormskirk, arriving at South-

port about five hours late. That afternoon a rapid thaw set in, and caused the service at Christ Church to be suspended, the dissolving mass of snow leaking through the double roof of the church.

**1861**—January. A baptismal font presented to Christ Church in memory of Mr. Richard Wright, by his widow and children.

———January. The Southport Co-operative Society established.

———January 26th. Prize fight interrupted; "Joe Goss, the champion light-weight," and two others arrested and brought before the Southport magistrates. All three were bound over to keep the peace.

———Feb. 13th. Mr. Robert Woodford Kettle appointed postmaster.

———March. A third stained-glass window placed in Christ Church. It was erected to the memory of Mr. Edward Fletcher, by his widow.

———March. The Rev. Alex. Mc.Laren Stalker accepted the pastorate of the Baptist congregation, then worshipping in the Town Hall.

———April. Census. Population of the parish of North Meols, 15,947.

———April 12. St. Paul's Iron Church opened by the Rev. Dr. Baylee, of Birkenhead. The Rev. T. J. Clarke first incumbent.

———April. A stained-glass window erected in St. James' Church, Birkdale, to the memory of James Darwell, Esq., by his family. He was the first warden of the church.

1861—May. Annual visit of the Lancashire Hussars, when the D Troop (Ormskirk) first assembled, under Captain the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, Lieutenant W. S. E. Standish (7th Hussars—Indian Mutiny), Cornet C. W. Bell (15th Hussars), and Sergeant-Major J. J. Nunneley (17th Lancers—Crimea ; Balaclava).

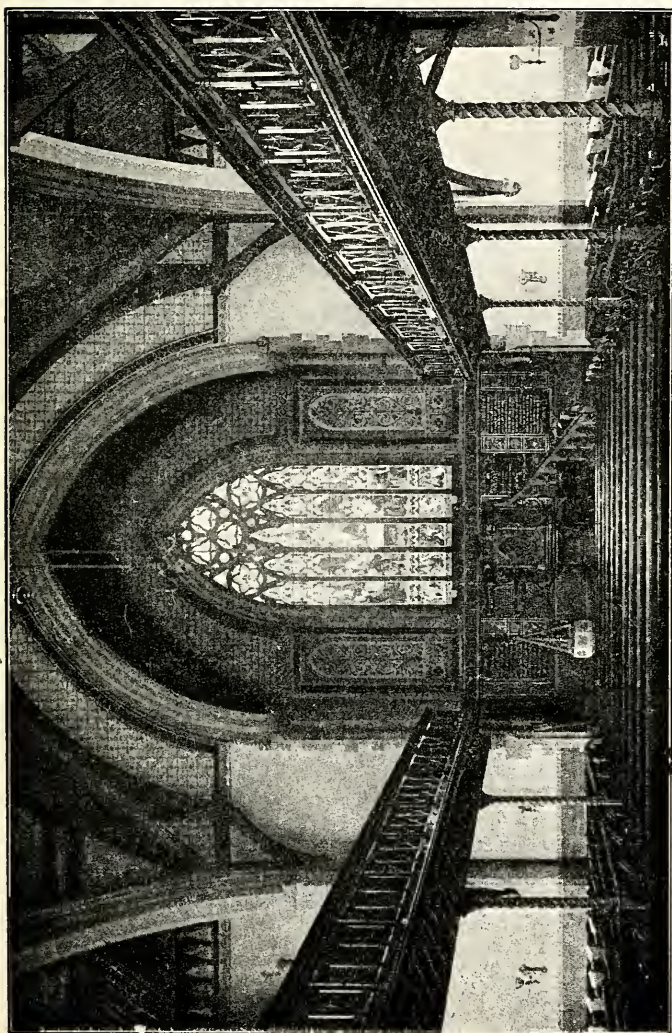
——June 3rd. The last record of a man being ordered to be put in the stocks—six hours for drunkenness. The stone posts of the stocks may still be seen against the churchyard wall at Churchtown.

——June 5th. Mornington Road Wesleyan Chapel opened by the Rev. W. Arthur. The chapel is 110 feet long inside, 45 feet wide in the nave, and 70 feet in the transept. There are sittings for 1,200 persons, 200 of which are free. The pulpit, of Dantzic oak, a most beautiful work of art, was the gift of Lawrence Heyworth, Esq. The architects were Messrs. Hayley and Son, of Manchester ; the contractors, Messrs. Statham and Sons, Pendleton. Messrs. Boothroyd supplied the necessary cushions and carpets. The collections at the opening services realised £160. 19s. 7d. Hoghton Street Chapel was sold for £2,000.

——June 5th. Lady Scarisbrick made a triumphal journey from Ormskirk to Scarisbrick Hall, on taking possession of the estates.

——June 13th. St. Cuthbert's Parish Church re-opened after re-building. In May, 1860, the church was closed and (except the tower and spire and a small portion of the south wall) taken down. In re-building, the church was enlarged, giving 300 additional seats, total 900. The





MORNINGTON ROAD WESLEYAN CHAPEL.





alterations cost £1,500. A stained-glass window, erected at the chancel by Mr. W. Wailes, of Newcastle, cost £100. It represents St. Paul preaching at Athens, and a brass plate at the foot of the window bears the following inscription :—"The Parish Church of North Meols having been partially re-built and considerably enlarged, in the year MDCCCLX., the chancel window and pulpit are erected as a tribute of respect to the present rector, the Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A., who for XXV. years has endeared himself to his parishioners by his courtesy as a man, his intelligence as a pastor, and his faithfulness as a preacher of the Gospel. June, MDCCCLXI." The re-opening services was conducted by the Rev. Hugh Stowell, M.A., of Christ Church, Salford, Canon of Chester.

—July 4th. The first number of the *Southport Independent* published by Mr. F. M. Jones. It was at first intended to publish this newspaper a fortnight earlier, but the proprietor, a thorough Radical, delayed the first issue until "Independence day." Though the paper lived twenty years, it had a precarious existence throughout ; it developed, ultimately, into the *Liverpool and Southport Daily News*.

—July 7th. A second Wesleyan Chapel opened in Southport. It was situate in Boundary Street, and was known as "Ecclesfield Chapel." It was erected from designs by Mr. Kissack, as a school-chapel, and was opened on this date by the Rev. J. Brash. It is now used as a mission-room, in connection with the Free Breakfast (Sunday) Mission.

- 1861—July 13th. The First Lancashire Light Horse Volunteers (Manchester) visited Southport for the first time. The troop wore the uniform of the Dragoon Guards. Their visit extended over a week.
- July 19th. The drinking fountain and barometer on the Promenade presented by Mr. John Fernley, of Clairville, Birkdale.
- July 22nd. The Second Lancashire Light Horse Volunteers (Liverpool) arrived for the first time. It was originally intended that both troops should arrive in town simultaneously, but there was some hitch through jealousy. This troop wore Lancer uniform.
- August 6th. John Cheetham, Esq., addressed the Southport electors as a Liberal candidate for South-Lancashire.
- August 12. Charles Turner, Esq., the Conservative candidate, appeared before the Southport electors. The election took place on the 19th, when Mr. Turner was returned by a majority of 816. The figures in the Southport Polling District were—Turner, 208; Cheetham, 160.
- August. Rev. John Harvard appointed Wesleyan minister at Southport.
- Sept. 9th. The *Jessie Knowles* lifeboat launched she was the first lifeboat stationed on this coast by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. On the occasion of the launching a procession was formed, which paraded the streets prior to the ceremony taking place. It was headed by Lord Skelmersdale (now Earl of Lathom) and the Rector (Rev. Chas. Hesketh, M.A.) A gale was blowing at the time, and there was a 19 feet tide, into

which the vessel was launched, having previously been christened the *Jessie Knowles* by Miss Lizzie Knowles, daughter of James Knowles, Esq., of Eagley Bank, Bolton, the donor of the boat. It may be mentioned that Jessie was the baby sister of the lady who performed the christening ceremony. As the boat left the carriage, a bottle of wine was dashed at her prow, amidst cries of success to the *Jessie Knowles*, and the boat shot into the "raging billows," where she afterwards saved so many valuable lives.

——September 26th. The foundation stone of West End Congregational Church laid by James Sidebottom, Esq., of Manchester.

——October 9th. Foundation stone of the Hydropathic Hospital, School Street, laid by Mr. W. C. Brocklehurst, J.P., of Macclesfield.

——Oct. 22nd. The Mechanics' Institute, or Athenæum, founded at the Temperance Hall, London Street.

——November 6th. First meeting of the Southport Burial Board.

——Nov. 10th. United Methodist Free Church, Lord Street, opened. Architect, Mr. T. Mellor ; builders, Heyward Brothers ; cost, £1,000 ; to seat 500. Preacher, Rev. S. S. Barton.

——Nov. 20th. Foundation stone of Mornington Road Wesleyan Sunday Schools laid by Mr. J. F. Stead.

——Dec. 10th. Rev. W. Jowett "recognised" as minister of Churchtown Congregational Church.

——Dec. 11th. Captain McInroy and Lieut. Barron resign their commissions in the 13th L.R.V. Captain

Edward Fleetwood Hesketh, of the 6th Royal Lancashire Militia, elected captain; Ensign John A. Robinson, lieutenant; and Sergeant-Major Higgin, ensign.

1862—January 23rd. Southport Athenæum opened by Dr. Fairbarn.

——January 24th. A gold watch and guard presented to Inspector (now Superintendent) Jervis, by the inhabitants, on his being removed to Ormskirk.

——March 1st. Rev. William B. Thorneloe, Wesleyan minister, died, aged 52. He had been 28 years in the ministry.

——March 5th. Hoghton Street Chapel opened by the Rev. Alex. McLaren, for the Baptist congregation, which had hitherto worshipped in the Town Hall. The chapel, which was erected by the Wesleyans, and occupied by that body till June, 1861, had been bought for £2,000. The Rev. Alex. McLaren Stalker was the first pastor.

——March 18th. Foundation stone of St. Paul's Schools laid by Rev. Thos. J. Clarke, M.A., vicar-elect.

——April 15th to 21st. Postal statistics: Number of letters despatched from Southport, 13,395; newspapers, 1,224; books, 188. [*Vide* 1842, 1852, 1872, and 1882.]

——April 24th, 25th, and 26th. Bazaar on behalf of the Children's Sanatorium, then being established.

——April and May. Bricklayers' strike. On April 30th several men were sent to prison for three months, for intimidation; an appeal was lodged, but the magistrates refused to go to Kirkdale prison to take the bail of the men. A "show cause rule" was applied for in the Court of Queen's Bench, but the justices still refused to go to

Kirkdale, and ultimately, on May 19th, the prisoners were brought to Southport under a writ of *habeas corpus*, and released on bail. The Quarter Sessions were held on July 15th, when the case was withdrawn, the strike having terminated.

——April 29th. The “Albert Edward” Lodge of the Ancient Order of Foresters opened at the Scarisbrick Arms Hotel.

——May 2nd. The foundation stone of St. Paul’s Church laid by Lord Skelmersdale (now Earl of Lathom). The architects were Messrs. Speakman and Charlesworth, of Manchester ; the builders, Messrs. Ellis and Hinchcliffe, also of Manchester, their contract being for £4,390. The land for church, vicarage, and schools was given by the Rector, Rev. Chas. Hesketh, M.A. The incumbent-elect was the Rev. Thos. J. Clarke, M.A., now of York.

——June 1st. Mornington Road Wesleyan Sunday School opened. Cost, £1,500.

——June 26th. The tower and spire of Christ Church finished. A large crowd witnessed and cheered the fixing of the last stone and the vane. “Chanticleer” did not, however, stay there long ; in a storm soon after he flew from his elevated position, and has never been re-fixed.

——June 28th. The foundation stone of the Fishermen’s Chapel, Hawkshead Street, laid by John Goodman, Esq., M.D.

——July 15th. Miss Lucy Heald Wood, eldest daughter of Dr. Peter Wood, J.P., married, at Mornington Road Chapel, to Mr. James S. Sutcliffe, of Bacup.

1862—July 19th. The brig *Commodore* (Captain Johnson), of South Shields, wrecked on the Horse Bank. This was the first wreck attended by the *Jessie Knowles*. On the lifeboat arriving at the vessel, it was found that the crew had left in their own boats. She was laden with grain, and was of 221 tons burthen. At the consequent Board of Trade inquiry, Captain Johnson was found guilty of negligence.

———July. Sir Henry Bold Hoghton, formerly one of the Lords of the Manor of North Meols, died, aged 63.

———July 26th. The Pier shareholders decided to make a tramway, and also to lengthen the Pier.

———August 9th. Foundation Stone of London Street Primitive Methodist Chapel laid by Jonas Segar, Esq. Architect, Mr. W. Hodge; builder, Mr. Illingworth; estimated cost, £400. Minister, Rev. J. Middleton.

———August 13th. The Ormskirk and Southport Agricultural Show held at the top of London Street, where Derby Road has been built.

———August 15th. Mr. Driffield, coroner, fined £10 by Mr. Baron Wilde for bad writing. Some depositions sent to the court were illegible, and the learned judge treated it as contempt of court.

———September 21st. Fishermen's Chapel (Independent Methodist), Hawkshead Street, opened by Mr. Barlow, of Manchester.

———October 2nd. The Southport Post-Office, which had hitherto been situate in Lord Street, opposite the Town Hall, removed to Chapel Street, where Mr. Kettle, the

postmaster, had erected a suitable building. The Post-office authorities remained tenants of that building until the erection of Cambridge Hall, when Parr's Banking Company purchased it as their Southport Branch.

——October 18th. The "Nile" fire engine established—the first proper engine and brigade that the town had.

——October 20th. Terrible gale, during which a large vessel, the *Ann E. Hooper*, 1145 tons, Captain William Hooper, of Baltimore for Liverpool, with wheat and flour, was wrecked on the Horse Bank. The *Jessie Knowles*, under Captain Rockliffe, was launched, but owing to the terrific sea it was a long time before she reached the vessel. The Lytham lifeboat, which had been towed out by a steamer, arrived at the wreck just before the *Jessie Knowles*, and succeeded in rescuing twelve of the crew and the pilots. The Southport lifeboat brought away the captain and three others of the crew, which had numbered twenty in all. Two had been washed overboard in the storm, and two lost their lives in attempting to launch the lifeboat. The *Ann E. Hooper* immediately broke up, and a portion of the vessel was dashed against the Pier, carrying away one of the pillars supporting that structure. About 1500 barrels of flour were washed ashore and saved, but quite as many came on to the beach damaged, and though many poor people were desirous of saving some of the dry flour in the centre of the barrels, the wreck officers prevented them, and it was all washed away to sea again. The result was that a great quantity of the articles saved were smuggled and



buried at both ends of the town. Tobacco, bacon, and clockworks might have been found in all quarters. The tobacco was consumed, but the bacon mostly went bad through being buried in the sand whilst wet. Twenty years after, clockworks were seen stowed away in the thatch of old cottages. During the same storm the *Quasi Rosa*, an Italian vessel of oak, 294 tons, was washed ashore on Birkdale beach, keel uppermost. Her crew were never heard of. She had been commanded by Captain Michele Tixi, and had a crew of thirteen. She was bound from Ardrossan to Genoa with coals. She broke into five pieces. Much damage was done to the Promenade, and to the sea wall of the Strangers' Charity, by the rough sea.

——October 21st. The Rev. Benj. Swift, LL.B., vicar of St. James', Birkdale, married to Miss Georgina Darwin, daughter of Sir Francis S. Darwin, of Beardsall.

——October 23rd. London Street Primitive Methodist Chapel opened by the Rev. Charles Garrett.

——December 26th. The barque *Brazils*, 500 tons, with timber, from Bangor, Maine, U.S.A., to Fleetwood, wrecked on the Salthouse bank. Crew saved in their own boats.

1863—January 19th. Terrible storm and high tides, one of the worst ever known on the coast. At this period there were long lawns in front of what is now known as Winter Gardens Terrace, then called New Promenade. All the walls, embankments, and palings were washed away completely; the folding doors of the lifeboat house were burst in by the waves, several bathing machines

completely wrecked, 100 yards of the Promenade opposite Waterloo Terrace seriously injured, a huge gap made in the Promenade opposite Bold Street ; the whole of the embankment front and palings of the Strangers' Charity washed away ; a new sea wall and house partly built, at the junction of Leicester Street and Adelaide Street, demolished by the waves. A number of fishing vessels suffered severely. At Banks the sea "cop" gave way, and the village was flooded as far as the Primitive Methodist Chapel, which was surrounded by water. The wind reached a velocity of 58 miles per hour, the anemometer indicating a pressure of 36 $\frac{1}{10}$ lbs. to the square foot.

——January 24th. Died, aged 67, Thomas Ridgway Bridson, J.P. On the occasion of his funeral, which was a public one, the whole of the places of business on the route of the procession were closed. For many years previous to his death he had taken a prominent part in the affairs of the town, and during the last eight years he resided permanently at Mornington House.

——March 10th. Great rejoicings in Southport and neighbourhood, in celebration of the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales. There was a procession of Sunday scholars and others to the number of over 5,000, which, headed by the 13th L.R.V. paraded the town, when Alexandra, Queen's, and Albert Roads were named. Amongst the events of the day were, a treat to the old people, rural sports, boat races, rifle contest, fireworks, and bonfire, illuminations, &c., and a large number of weddings.

1863—April 17th. The graveyards of Christ Church, Holy Trinity Church, Chapel Street Independent Chapel, and St. Marie's Roman Catholic Church, closed as public burial grounds.

——April 27th. Patrick Hunter, Esq., charged with assaulting the Rev. T. J. Clarke, vicar of St. Paul's. After a long trial, of a very painful character, the matter was settled by the two gentlemen shaking hands in court.

——May 7th. The Pier Tramway opened.

——May 19th. The Royal Museum, Portland Street, opened by Mr. William Newby, of Liverpool, by whom it had been built. It has had a varied experience. From a Museum it was converted to a Music Hall, then it became a Theatre, and was next transformed into a Skating Rink. Subsequently it became the *Southport Daily News* office, and after the stoppage of that organ, it was secured by the Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers as their head-quarters.

——May 20th. The foundation stone of Trinity Wesleyan Chapel laid by John Fernley, Esq., of Birkdale, who defrayed the entire cost (£10,000) of its erection. Messrs. Starkey and Cuffley, of Manchester, were the architects.

——May 21st. On the motion of Mr. Walter Smith, seconded by Mr. Hewitt, the Improvement Commissioners resolved, "That it is desirable to apply for a new Act of Parliament to extend the district, and for other purposes; and to petition for a Charter of Incorporation."

——May 26th. The 1000th number of the *Southport Visitor* published.

- 1863—June 18th. The Local Government Act came in force at Birkdale, under an order dated May 30th. The first election took place in July, when nine members were elected.
- July 1st. New Fish Market opened. It occupied the back portion of the market yard, and was the first building devoted solely to fish, which had hitherto been sold in the General Market.
- July 9th. Master Sam Hurst Boothroyd, aged 12, drowned whilst bathing on the shore.
- July 9th. Recognition service at West End Congregational Chapel, to receive the Rev. John Chater, formerly of Douglas.
- July 13th. 7,000 Orangemen visited Southport and paraded the streets in procession. The *Visitor* next day said, "We have not the slightest objection to the observance of days and seasons in commemoration of great events in our national history. But we must, and do, protest against our beautiful well-ordered town being invaded by so riotous a company as yesterday occupied our thoroughfares, firing pistols, brandishing swords, spears, halberds, and other warlike instruments, especially as it unfortunately appears necessary to the majority to get intoxicated, and endanger the peace and safety of the population."
- August 30th. Wesleyan Services and Sunday School established at Blowick, in the workshop of Mr. Edward Bridge, wheelwright.
- September 3rd. Foundation stone of Trinity Wesleyan Schools laid by James Heald, Esq., of Didsbury.

- 1863—September 5th. Serious fire at “Birklands,” Westcliffe Road, then in course of erection by Mr. George Culshaw, for W. Welsby, Esq. Damage £500.
- September 7th. Mr. Cyrus W. Johnson elected clerk to the Birkdale Local Board, and Mr. Welsby law clerk.
- September 20th. The barque *St. Lawrence* in distress in the Channel. Twelve of the crew and the captain’s wife and child rescued by the *Jessie Knowles* lifeboat. The *St. Lawrence* afterwards drifted on to Lytham shore.
- October 4th. Died, age 103, Ellen Lowe, widow. She was the daughter of William and Peggy Marsden, of Standish, near Wigan, and was baptised in Standish Church, June 1st, 1760. For more than 63 years she had been the faithful and attached servant of Mrs. Tennant, of Manchester Road, in whose service she died “respected and beloved.” She was buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard.
- October 6th. Severe shock of earthquake felt at Southport.
- October 31st. Great gale. The barque *Tamworth*, 621 tons, of Skein, Norway, Captain Hanson, with a crew of 17 all told, from Liverpool to Havannah, with coal, salt, and ironmongery, wrecked on the Trunk Hill Bank. The crew were rescued by the *Jessie Knowles*.
- December 3rd. Miss Maria E. Wood, of Woodbank, married, at Mornington Road Chapel, to Edward Holden, Esq., of Shipley.

1863—December 4th. The *David White Clinton*, of New York, wrecked off Formby. Eight of the crew saved by the *Jessie Knowles*.

———December 5th. The shareholders of the Pier Company decided to widen the structure and place the tramway at the side.

———December 28th. Great town's meeting, at which it was decided to apply for a Charter of Incorporation.

1864—February. "Victoria" Lodge (5203 M.U.) Independent Order of Oddfellows founded.

———March 5th. Died, aged 84, Rev. Geo. Greatbatch. On March 9th he was buried at Chapel Street Chapel, the funeral being a public one. He had been resident in the parish 58 years, and for 57 years was the hon. sec. to the Strangers' Charity, the name of which, shortly before his death, had been changed to "Convalescent Hospital and Sea-bathing Infirmary."

———April 14th. The Rev. A. M. Stalker presented with a timepiece by the congregation of the Baptist Chapel.

———April 14th. St. Paul's Church consecrated by the Bishop of Chester; the Rev. Thomas J. Clarke, M.A., appointed vicar.

———April 20th. The Improvement Commissioners opposed the application for a Charter of Incorporation, reversing their previous policy.

———May 27th. The flat, *Sarah*, of Liverpool, wrecked on the Trunk Hill Bank; the crew saved by a fishing smack.

———June 23rd. Wesleyan Day and Sunday Schools, Talbot Street, opened.

- 1864—June 23rd. Captain Rockliffe, coxswain of the life-boat, awarded, by the King, of Sweden and Norway, the “Silver medal for civic achievements,” for his services in connection with the wreck of the *Tamworth* in the previous October. Each other member of the crew had a grant of £2.
- July 5th. A “Boulevard Committee” appointed by the Commissioners. The credit of promoting the Boulevards must be given to Mr. Chas. Barrow, a dentist, then practising in the town.
- August 1st. Foundation stone of the Methodist New Connexion Chapel, Manchester Road—the first in Southport—laid by Councillor Pilling, of Bolton. Architect, Mr. C. Hill, Leeds; builders, Messrs. Jones and Holden. Cost, £600.
- August. Mr. Inspector Jervis, of the county police, appointed superintendent of the force at Bacup.
- August 2nd. The pier extension opened. It was on a lower level than the original structure.
- August 17th. The Ormskirk and Southport Agricultural Society’s Show, held in Portland Street, adjoining the railway.
- September 15th. Trinity Wesleyan Chapel, Duke Street, opened by the Rev. Dr. Osborn. The Rev. F. W. Greeves appointed first minister. The Rev. W. B. Pope had been appointed minister at Morningson Road and superintendent of the circuit, *vice* Rev. John Harvard.
- September 28th. Peal of bells (six) in Christ Church Tower inaugurated. A three days’ bazaar held in the Town Hall realised over £300, and an equal sum was



given in subscriptions. There was a balance of over £100 left towards two more bells.

—October 20th. The sloop *Liver* wrecked, in a gale, on the Mad Wharf. The crew (three) rescued by the life-boat.

—November. The Commissioners promoted a new Improvement Act, to extend the limits of the district, to widen existing streets, and make new streets and boulevards, acquire lands in Lord Street and other places, to divide the town into wards, to make a public park, and other purposes.

—November 17th. Methodist New Connexion Chapel opened by the Rev. R. Henshaw, president of the connexion.

—November 18th. The *Chimæra*, 204 tons, of Liverpool, from Sierra Leone for Liverpool, with a mixed cargo, wrecked on the Horsebank. The crew of eleven, with three passengers, all lost except one sailor (a negro) saved by a Marshside fishing-boat.

—November 28th to December 2nd. Five days' inquiry *re* the proposed incorporation, before Captain Donnelly, R.E.

—December 6th. The Rev. C. Hesketh, rector, one of the lords of the manor, offered to the town 30 acres of sandhills with which to form a public park.

1865—April 9th. Friends' Meeting House, Portland Street, opened.

—April 17th. The Rev. B. S. Clarke, M.A., presented by his congregation with a purse containing £130, with which to purchase vestments on taking his degrees of B.D. and D.D.

1865—May 16th to 20th. Bazaar on behalf of St. Paul's Church, which realised £927, which friends made up to £1000.

—May 18th. The ancient parish of North Meols divided into ecclesiastical districts.

—June 23rd. Improvement Act passed the Lords.

—July 5th. The degree of D.D. conferred on the Rev. B. S. Clarke by the University of Dublin.

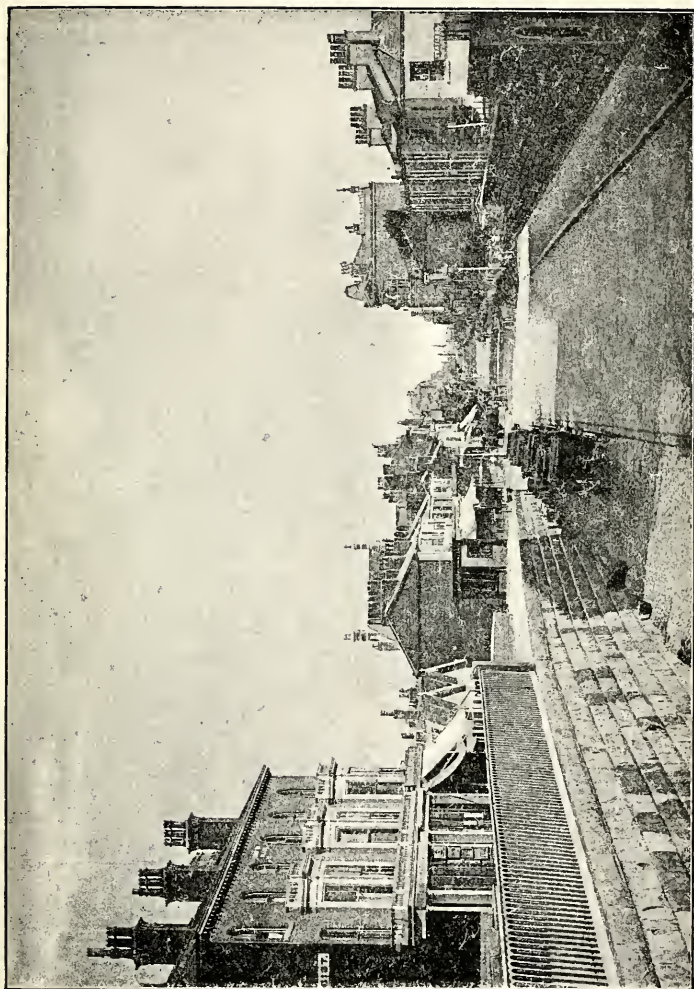
—July 6th. General Election campaign. Messrs. Egerton, Legh, and Turner, Conservative candidates, addressed the Southport electors in the Town Hall.

—July 13th. Messrs. J. Heywood and H. Y. Thompson, Liberal candidates, addressed the Southport electors.

—July 20th. General Election. Result of Polling in Southport District: Egerton 264, Legh 253, Gladstone 252, Turner 247, Heywood 230, Thompson 230. Final Declaration of the Poll: Egerton 9171, Turner 8806, Gladstone 8786; Legh 8476, Heywood 7653, Thompson 7703.

—July 18th. Second Government Inquiry, *re* the proposed incorporation, before Captain Donnelly, C.E.

—August 1st. Fatal accident on the pier. Mrs. Frances Bateman, a widow lady, and her brother-in-law, Mr. John Anderton, were riding in one of the tramcars when it left the line. The lady was thrown from her seat and dashed through the railings, receiving such injuries that she died within twenty-four hours. Mr. Anderton was also seriously injured. Mrs. Bateman's representatives sued the Pier Company and recovered £400, and £250 was at the same time awarded to Mr. Anderton.



NEVILL STREET, 1863.



- 1865—August 9th. West End Congregational Schools opened.
- August 18th and 19th. The “Regatta” revived—regarded as a holiday.
- August 25th. The centre block of the Victoria Hotel completed. Architect, Mr. Mangnall, Manchester ; contractor, Mr. Abel Riding. The hotel had some time before been acquired by a Limited Liability Company.
- September 7th. The Improvement Act had divided the town into three wards, each with nine members. There was a contest only in the Central Ward, for which thirteen candidates were nominated, three of them being “bogus,” only polling two votes each. Mr. Isaac Wain, one of the genuine candidates, was defeated by one vote.
- September 18th. The Rev. Edwin Walker, of Airedale College, accepted a call as Assistant Minister to the Rev. J. E. Millson at Chapel Street Congregational Church.
- October 15th. Foundation stone of St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, Albert Road, Birkdale, laid by Bishop Goss, of Liverpool, on land given (with £1,000) by T. Weld-Blundell, Esq. Architect, Pugin, jun. ; builder, Mr. Livesey, Scarisbrick. Cost, £3,000.
- November 25th. Railway collision at Wigan, in which Mr. George Wilkinson, of Southport, was killed.
- November 27th. Blowick Wesleyan Chapel opened by the Rev. W. B. Pope. Architect, C. O. Ellison, Liverpool ; builder, Mr. W. Wilkinson.
- December 16th. Southport Cemetery completed, at a cost of £4,000. Church portion consecrated by the

- Bishop of Chester. Architects of buildings, Messrs. Blackwell, Son, and Booth ; builders, Statham Brothers.
- 1866—January 10th. The Queen's Hotel opened by Mr. Ballard, of Liverpool.
- January 13th. Severe storm, during which the trawler *Alice* rescued the crews of the sloop *Tower* (two) and schooner *Bans Vale* (two), of Ulverstone, both wrecked on the Horsebank.
- January 14th. Rev. Edwin Walker commenced his ministry at Chapel Street Congregational Church.
- January. Unitarian congregation formed in the Town Hall ; Rev. E. S. Howse, B.A., minister.
- February 28th. Humiliation Day on account of the Cattle Plague. Services in all the places of worship. At Christ Church £27 was collected for the Convalescent Hospital, in respect to which Dr. Clarke was made a life governor.
- March 13th. St. Paul's School Church, Duke Street, Ecclesfield, opened by the Rev. W. A. Mocatta.
- March. Captain Donnelly's report *re* Incorporation published. It was in favour of the petition as regarded the district of the Improvement Commissioners and unfavourable as regarded Birkdale.
- March 22nd. Foundation stone of Crossens Primitive Methodist Chapel laid by Thomas Milnes, Esq.
- March 26th. A curious bronze medal found in Birkdale. It bore the effigy of Henry II. and the dates of his reign—1154–1189.
- March 30th. Foundation stone of New Chapel, in Chapel Street, laid by Mr. George Hadfield, M.P. The

previous chapel faced Eastbank Street, and had been pulled down to make room for the present edifice.

——April 12th. Died, aged 64, Sir Peter Hesketh Fleetwood, Bart., brother of the rector, and formerly Lord of the Manor.

——May 1st. The grant of a Charter of Incorporation announced.

——May 30th. Died, aged 70, the Rev. John Bowers, Wesleyan minister. He had been 53 years in the ministry, 21 of which he was governor of the Institute. In 1858 he was President of the Conference.

——July 5th. Foundation stone of a new church, at Banks, laid by Mrs. Talbot.

——July 30th. The Manchester and Salford Bank, Lord Street, opened. During the building of it business was carried on in the Town Hall.

——August 11th. Died, aged 82, the Rev. William Coultas. He was in the ministry 56 years, the first seven of which he spent as a missionary in the West Indies. He was stationed in various parts of England from 1817 to 1850, when he became a supernumerary, and settled in Southport, where he had been stationed from 1844 to 1847. It was mainly by his exertions that Hoghton Street Chapel was built.

——September 6th to 8th. Grand cricket match, Eleven of All England against Twenty-two of Southport. The Eleven won by 36 runs.

——September. Four days' bazaar on behalf of St. Stephen's - in - the - Banks Church, at the Town Hall. Result, £991. 15s. 9d.



**1866**—October 1st. Southport Petty Sessional Division formed.

——November 3rd. The Palace Hotel opened. A banquet was given to the shareholders, and in the evening there was a great display of fireworks. The hotel was designed by Messrs. Cuffley, Horton, and Bridgeford, of Manchester, the contractors being Messrs. Bordon, Edwards, and Foster. The furnishing was executed by Messrs. Gurnett and Son, of Warrington, and Messrs. Boothroyd, Son, and Rimmer, Southport. Mr. Edward Bisserot was the first manager.

——November 5th. The Improvement Commissioners resolved "that application be made to Parliament for an Act to enable the Commissioners to execute works and purchase land necessary to bring a supply of water to the town from Ormskirk or the immediate neighbourhood thereof."

——November 18th. Mr. Bowker, Government tax-collector, absconded. On his books being examined, it was found that he was a defaulter to the extent of £879. 4s. 1d. A warrant was issued, and on Nov. 21st he was arrested and taken to Lancaster Castle. In addition to the tax money, for which the firm was responsible, he also left his partner, Mr. Airey, liabilities to the extent of over £2,000.

**1867**—February 22nd. The Waterloo Cup won by Mr. Stocker's nomination, "Lobelia," the property of Mr. W. J. Legh.

——March 5th. The Charter of Incorporation received by Mr. Robert Ashton, solicitor. The area incorporated

was identical with that named in the Improvement Act of 1865, the town being divided into four wards (West, Craven, Talbot, and East), each with six councillors and two aldermen. Mr. William Halliwell (or, failing him, Mr. Thomas Milnes) was nominated returning officer for the first and any other election that might take place before the first of November.

———March 12th. A new organ, built by Messrs. Foster and Andrew, of Leeds, opened at the Baptist Chapel, Hoghton Street.

———March 14th. The House of Commons Committee rejected the Water Bill, promoted by the Improvement Commissioners. Another Bill, promoted by the Waterworks Company, giving additional powers, passed the Committee.

———April 2nd. The Church of St. Stephen's-in-the-Banks opened by the Rev. Dr. Taylor, of St. Silas', Liverpool. The Rev. N. S. Jeffrey was appointed first incumbent.

———April 11th. Severe gale, during which two vessels were seen in distress off Salthouse Bank. The lifeboat was launched, and went to render assistance, but the Lytham and Blackpool boats had rescued both crews just before the arrival of the *Jessie Knowles*. The larger vessel, the barque *Susan L. Campbell*, with a crew of 14, for Halifax, with a general cargo, was totally wrecked; the other vessel, the schooner *H. L. Routh*, in ballast, for Glasgow, got off with slight injury.

———May 12th. St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Albert Road, Birkdale, consecrated by the Right Rev. Dr. Goss,

Bishop of Liverpool. The Rev. Chas. Teebay first pastor.

——June 1st. The first municipal election. The contest was non-political, and nearly all the candidates were pledged to elect the aldermen from the councillors. The result was declared as follows :—In No. 1, or West Ward, the gentlemen returned were Messrs. Richd. Ball (brewer), Richd. Ball (Albion), James Scott, Amos Gregson, Seth Rimmer, and Samuel Boothroyd. No. 2, or Craven Ward—Messrs. E. W. Stocker, Thomas Fisher, Thomas Marshall, Isaac Beswick, James Whitehead, and W. H. Talbot. No. 3, or Talbot Ward—Messrs. H. Robinson, J. A. Robinson, W. Sutton, senr., W. Sutton, junr., W. Smallshaw, and T. Bond. No. 4, or East Ward—Messrs. Gilbert Harrison, Peter Wood, M.D., Geo. B. Barron, M.D., Thos. Houghton, and Taylor Robinson Stephenson. The return for West Ward was a disputed one. There were eleven candidates, and the result of the poll gave the following figures to the first eight ; viz., Messrs. R. Ball (B) 110, R. Ball (A) 103, James Scott 98, Thomas Whalley 98, W. Ball (farmer) 93, Amos Gregson 81, Samuel Boothroyd 73, and Seth Rimmer 56. The returning officer, however, declared many of the voting papers to be bad, on the ground that the word “Southport” did not appear after the names of some of the candidates ; consequently he gave the result of the poll as follows :—Scott 92, Gregson 81, Boothroyd 70, R. Ball (B) 63, R. Ball (A) 57, Rimmer 55. Messrs. W. Ball and Whalley were thus declared in a minority. They were, however, elected on June 19th to fill the extra-ordinary vacancies.

- 1867—June 6th. The New Congregational Chapel, in Chapel Street, opened by the Rev. James Parsons, of York. It was built to seat 900, at a cost of £4,500. The architect was Mr. R. Moffat Smith, of Manchester; builder, Mr. W. Wilkinson. The enlarged site necessitated the removal of many graves, the contents of which were re-interred at the Cemetery.
- June 8th. First meeting of the Town Council, at which the aldermen were elected as follows: West Ward, Messrs. Boothroyd and Gregson; Craven Ward, Messrs. Talbot and Harrison; Talbot Ward, Messrs. Sutton, senr., and Holt; East Ward, Messrs. Wood and Stephenson, the last named in each ward to be the first to retire, viz., at November, 1871. Dr. Peter Wood was elected first mayor, and Mr. Robert Ashton, town clerk *pro tem*.
- June 9th. The Albert Temperance Hotel, London Street, opened by a Limited Liability Company.
- June 19th. Extra-ordinary election to fill the vacancies caused by the election of aldermen. In West Ward (two vacancies) Messrs. W. Ball (farmer) and T. Whalley were elected; in Craven Ward (one) Mr. Thomas Stanley; in Talbot Ward (one) Mr. Walter Smith; and in East Ward (four) Messrs. W. H. Walker, T. L. Watson, R. Clegg, and Dr. D. H. McNicoll.
- August 4th. New organ opened at West End Congregational Church.
- August. The Revs. J. W. Greeves and G. S. Rowe appointed Wesleyan ministers at Southport, *vice* the Revs. W. B. Pope and F. W. Greeves.

1867—August 7th. Unitarian Church, Portland Street, opened by the Rev. C. Beard, of Liverpool. The Rev. E. S. Howse was the first minister, but he was very soon succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Holland, B.A.

———August 8th and 9th. Grand cricket match, All England Eleven *v.* 22 of Southport and District. Scores : The Eleven, 101 and 115 ; total, 226. Southport, 79 and 77 ; total, 156.

———August. The total cost of the Charter of Incorporation, including the returning officer's expenses, announced to amount to £1,691. 13s. od.

———September 13th. New Wesleyan Chapel, on Birkdale Common, opened by the Rev. W. B. Pope.

———September 23rd. Mr. C. S. Goodman (Forshaw, Goodman, and Hawkins) appointed Town Clerk of Southport.

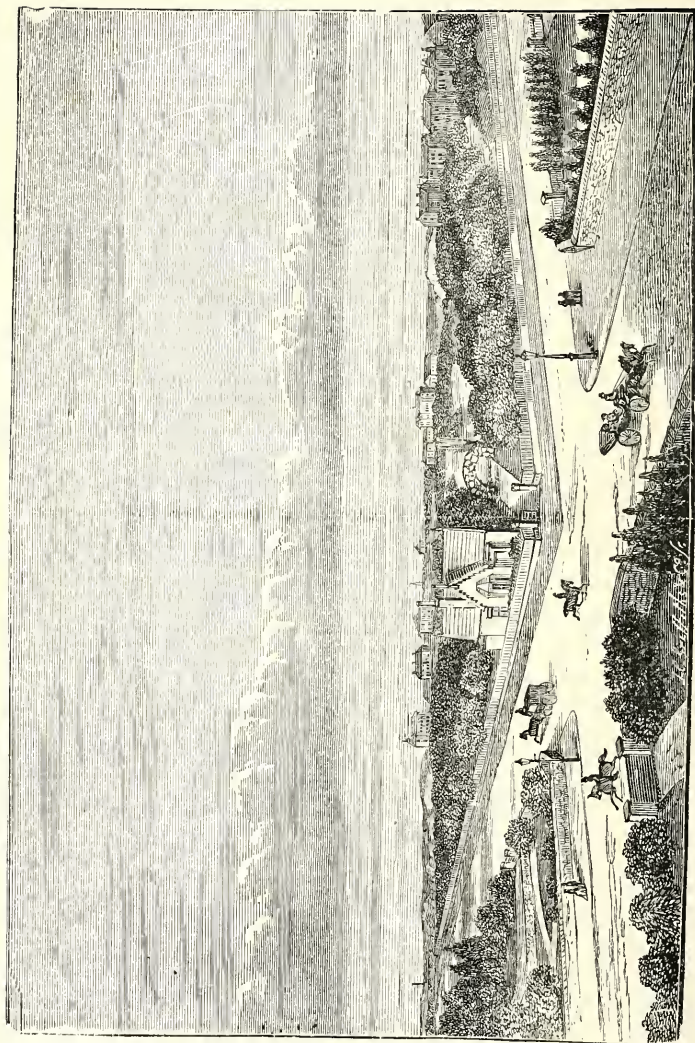
———November 1st. Municipal election. West Ward, Messrs. Edward Iddon and Richard Ball (A), the former *vice* Mr. Seth Rimmer. Craven Ward, Messrs. Thomas Milnes and Isaac Beswick, the former *vice* Mr. James Whitehead. Talbot Ward, Messrs. Jonas Segar and Robert Clarkson *vice* Messrs. T. Bond and W. Smallshaw. East Ward, Dr. McNicoll and Mr. W. Smallshaw, the latter *vice* Dr. Barron.

———November 9th. Dr. Peter Wood elected second time mayor of Southport.

———December 18th. Thomas Cave, foreman porter on the L. and Y. Railway, killed at Chapel Street Station, whilst coupling an engine and carriages.







HESKETH PARK



- 1867**—December 19th. The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., addressed the electors in the Music Hall, Portland Street, Southport. In his speech that evening, the right hon. gentleman first proposed to disestablish the Irish Church.
- 1868**—January 21st. Died, Mr. Goodwin Packer, borough surveyor. Mr. W. Crabtree was appointed his successor.
- March 10th. Buried at Churchtown, aged 100 years, Mrs. Margaret Johnson. She left 124 descendants.
- March 12th. Local Auxiliary of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals established.
- March 23rd. The Pier extension opened. It had previously been very narrow and several feet lower than the older part of the Pier.
- May 1st. Hesketh Park opened by the Mayor, Dr. Peter Wood, J.P. It was a gala day, with procession, &c., and illuminations at night. The cost was £12,000, in addition to the land, which was given by the Rector.
- May 10th. Died, Dr. D. H. McNicoll. His seat in the Council was filled up by the election of Mr. Thomas Ireland.
- May 20th. Evangelical Conference, at which the Rev. J. C. Ryle, M.A., of Wickham Market, Suffolk (now Bishop of Liverpool), read two papers on "Qualities specially demanded of the clergy of the Church of England at the present crisis," and "Fidelity to great principles."
- June 4th, 5th, and 6th. Grand cricket match, All England Eleven v. Twenty-two of Southport and District.

- Scores : Eleven, 96 and 183 ; total, 279. The Twenty-two, 97 and 122 ; total 219.
- June 3rd. Died, at Bath Street, the Hon. Mary Charlotte Bootle-Wilbraham, aged 67.
- July 20th. The steamer *Coniston*, laden with petroleum, from Liverpool for Lancaster, burnt at sea, off this coast. The crew, six in number, all lost.
- August 4th. The Church of St. Stephens-in-the-Banks consecrated by the Bishop of Chester.
- August 11th. The “ Fernley Lecture ” in connection with the Wesleyan Conference, established by Mr. John Fernley, of Birkdale.
- August 13th. Mr. John Hunt, Poor-rate collector, declared a defaulter to the amount of £945.
- September 1st. Serious fire at “ Hunt’s Old Farm,” which was situate where Forest Road now stands. A valuable mare and other live stock, and the whole of the year’s corn crops were destroyed.
- September 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. The Manchester and Liverpool Agricultural Show, with which the local society amalgamated, held at Southport. It was situate between Scarisbrick New Road and the railway occupying from what is now Sefton Street to beyond Chambres Road.
- September 11th. Mr. Thos. Brown Hodgkinson, the borough accountant, arrested for embezzlement. His defalcations amounted to £10,010 1s. 2d. At the Quarter Sessions he pleaded guilty, and Mr. R. A. Cross sentenced him to eighteen months’ hard labour. The “ hard labour ” consisted in being schoolmaster to his fellow-prisoners.

1868—October 11th. The Rev. Alexander Crerar, M.A., one of the masters at Dr. Morgan's college, commenced Presbyterian services at the Town Hall. Mr. Crerar's efforts resulted in the Church being, ultimately, "recognised" by the Synod of the English Presbyterian Church, but as the rev. gentleman was a clergyman of the Established Church of Scotland, *he* was not "recognised," and had to leave the congregation after doing all the hard work.

———October 17th. Messrs. C. Turner and R. A. Cross, on their election tour, addressed the electors at Southport Town Hall. The Rev. Charles Hesketh presided.

———October 21st. The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone and Mr. H. R. Grenfell addressed the electors in the Music Hall, Portland Street, Mr. Holbrook Gaskell in the chair.

———November 1st. Municipal election, with the following results: West Ward, \*R. Ball (B), 112; C. Barrow, 109; \*W. Ball, 102; E. Vincent, 29. Craven Ward, \*T. Fisher, 194; James Whitehead, 163; \*T. Marshall, 98; J. C. Smith, 75. Talbot Ward, \*W. Sutton, junr., 199; E. Martin, 179; \*J. A. Robinson, 90. East Ward, T. Lawton, 91, \*W. H. Walker, 89; \*T. L. Watson, 84. Those marked \* were retiring councillors. There were two vacancies in each ward.

———November 9th. Mr. Alderman Boothroyd elected mayor of Southport.

———November 24th. General election. Result of the polling in Southport District: Gladstone, 884; Grenfell, 836; Cross, 618; Turner, 615.

- 1868—December 25th. Foundation stone of Ebenezer Chapel, High Park, laid by Mr. William Lyon.
- 1869—January 26th. Terrible calamity at Marshside. Seven fishermen returning from “putting” for shrimps, lost in a sudden dense fog and drowned. The Marshside Fog Bell was established with a view of preventing a similar calamity. An inscription on the bell-house reads—“MARSHSIDE FOG BELL: This Bell was erected in May, 1869, to prevent a similar calamity to that which happened on the 26th January, 1869, when seven men, namely, Peter Aughton, Robert Wright, John Wright, John Rimmer, Peter Wright, William Hesketh, and Peter Wright were drowned by the rising tide on the adjacent sand banks, in a dense fog, being unable to discover, until too late, the direction of home.” A handsome subscription was raised for the relief of the widows and orphans, which was invested in such a manner as to expire, capital and interest, in twenty years. At the last meeting of the trustees it was stated that there were now two recipients, the balance of the fund amounting to about £50.
- March. Mr. W. Halliwell, J.P., elected a councillor for Craven Ward, *vice* Mr. T. Milnes, who had left the town.
- August 8th. The barque *William Wallace*, of Dundalk, ashore on the Horse-bank. Vessel and crew saved by the lifeboat.
- September. Mr. Keighley Walton appointed Town Clerk, *vice* Mr. C. S. Goodman, resigned.
- November 1st. Municipal election, at which the following changes resulted: West Ward, Dr. Lang, *vice*

Mr. T. Whalley; East Ward, Messrs. H. S. Cox and W. P. Clarke, *vice* Messrs. R. Clegg and T. Houghton.

——November 9th. Alderman Boothroyd re-elected mayor of Southport.

——December. Singular accident at Eastbank Street Gasworks. One of the weights of the gasholder having broken from the chain, the holder tilted, all the gas escaped, and for several nights the town was in darkness.

1870—March 5th. Foundation stone of the Infirmary, Virginia Street, laid by the mayor (Alderman Boothroyd). John Fernley, Esq., had purchased the land for £286, and W. Atkinson, Esq., gave £500 towards the building. Messrs. Mellor and Sutton were the architects; Messrs. Wishart and Irving, builders.

——March 15th. St. Peter's School-Church, Birkdale, opened; the Rev. F. Cooper vicar-designate.

——March 16th. Waterworks Act of Parliament, authorising £70,000 increase of capital, passed.

——March 29th. Thos. Greedwood, shoemaker, William Street, committed for trial for the manslaughter of his wife, by kicking her to death. At the Assizes he was acquitted.

——April 7th. Foundation stone of All Saints' Church, Hesketh Park, laid by Mrs. Hesketh, who bore the entire cost.

——April 25th. Councillor Lawton died. The vacancy in East Ward was filled by the election of Mr. S. Swire.

——May 1st. Southport Borough Police Force established.

- 1870—June. Cemetery Road Primitive Methodist Chapel opened.
- June 4th. Southport Athletic Festival established.
- June 30th. Alderman Gilbert Harrison died.
- July 7th. Fermor Lodge (1313) of Freemasons established.
- July 12th. Councillor W. H. Walker elected alderman, *vice* Mr. Gilbert Harrison, deceased. Councillor Walter Smith elected alderman, *vice* Mr. W. H. Talbot, resigned.
- July 16th. Fatal fight at the Shakespere Hotel between Richard Ackers and John Barton. The former was knocked on to the curbstone, and picked up dead. Barton was committed to the Assizes, but was there acquitted.
- July 19th. Municipal election. East Ward, Mr. G. Henry elected, *vice* Mr. Alderman Walker. Talbot Ward, Mr. R. W. Kettle, *vice* Mr. Alderman Smith.
- August 3rd. The Agricultural Show held at Birkdale, adjoining the Palace Hotel ; £330 taken at the gates.
- August. The Revs. E. E. Jenkins and Thomas Ackroyd appointed Wesleyan ministers, *vice* Revs. J. W. Greeves and G. S. Rowe.
- August 26th. Mr. J. Marchbank elected councillor for East Ward, *vice* Mr. H. S. Cox, who had left the town.
- September 22nd. Rev. J. T. C. Gullam, of Swansea, "called" to the pastorate of the English Presbyterian Church.
- October 3rd. Edward Hunt, a Marshside fisherman, aged 22, drowned (in a fog) whilst shrimp fishing.

- 1870—November 1st. Municipal elections, when the following changes took place : West Ward, Mr. J. R. Calrow, *vice* Mr. E. Iddon. Craven Ward, Mr. H. Hodge (captain), *vice* Mr. W. Halliwell, J.P. Talbot Ward, Mr. J. W. Dawson, *vice* Mr. Robert Clarkson.
- November 9th. Mr. Alderman Smith, J.P., elected mayor of Southport.
- December. Extra-ordinary municipal election. Mr. T. P. Griffiths elected councillor for Craven Ward, *vice* Mr. T. Stanley, deceased.
- December 15th. The schooner *Jessie*, of Gourock, wrecked on the sandbanks. The crew (five) saved by the *Jessie Knowles*.
- 1871—January 2nd. Southport Infirmary opened. Drs. J. Segar, D. Elias, and G. A. Woods, honorary medical officers ; Mr. G. A. Coombe, first house surgeon.
- January 2nd. Forty-six aged people entertained by Mr. Rigbye, Bold Arms Hotel, Churchtown. Their united ages reached 3,573 years, or an average of  $77\frac{3}{4}$  years.
- January 5th. All Saints Church, Hesketh Park, opened by license.
- April 4th. Census ; population of the Borough of Southport : Males, 7,349 ; females, 10,735 ; total, 18,084. (East Ward, 3,035 ; Talbot Ward, 6,127 ; Craven Ward, 5,055 ; West Ward, 3,867). Houses, inhabited, 3,328 ; uninhabited, 295 ; building, 45. Township of North Meols, outside the borough, males, 2,092 ; females, 2,094 ; total, 4,186. Houses, inhabited, 890 ; uninhabited, 28 ; building, 16. Total for the township, males, 9,441 ;



females, 12,829 ; total, 22,270. Houses, inhabited, 4,218 ; uninhabited, 323 ; building, 61. Birkdale, males, 1,242 ; females, 2,031 ; total, 3,373. Houses, inhabited, 609 ; uninhabited, 57 ; total, 666.

———May 23rd. Southport Tramways Company formed.

———June 21st. "British Workman" public-house, Upper Duke Street, opened.

———July 5th. Great gala at the opening of the New Baths by Lord Skelmersdale. At the same time the Meteorological Observatory, Hesketh Park, given by John Fernley, Esq., was inaugurated. Mayoral robes were presented to the mayor (Alderman Smith) by a number of ladies.

———July 7th. The West Lancashire Railway Bill passed.

———July 13th. Southport Improvement Act, 1871, passed.

———July 26th. Foundation stone of St. Andrew's Church laid by W. Atkinson, Esq., J.P., D.L., who contributed more than £4,000 towards the cost. Architects, Messrs. T. D. Barry and Sons, of Liverpool.

———July. During the excavations for Crowland's Gas Works, a number of elk antlers and bones of extinct animals found at a depth of twelve feet six inches from the surface.

———August 30th. Alderman Wm. Sutton, senr., resigned, owing to age and infirmity. Councillor William Sutton, junr., elected alderman. At the necessary bye election the vacancy was filled by Mr. Silas Eastham, who polled 94 votes to 9 recorded for his opponent, Mr. C. Bowcock.

1871—September 20th. Foundation stone of St. Peter's Church, Birkdale, laid by the rector, the Rev. C. Hesketh. Architects, Messrs. T. D. Barry and Sons, Liverpool; builder, Mr. Henry Yates, Liverpool; contract price, £2,399.

—September 21st. Rev. J. L. Rentoul, of Belfast, "called" to the ministry of the English Presbyterian Church. He accepted the call in the following November.

—September 28th. Foundation stone of Wesley Chapel, Aughton Road, Birkdale, laid by Mr. J. Fernley, who bore the entire expense thereof—£4,000.

—October 19th. Rev. Ebenezer E. Jenkins married at Mornington Road Chapel, to Miss M. H. Wood.

—October 29th. Welsh Presbyterian Chapel, Portland Street, opened by the Rev. J. Pritchard, of Liverpool.

—November 1st. The first municipal election fought on political grounds. Result: West Ward (2), Johnson (L), 243; Proctor (C), 233; \*Ball (brewer) (C), 226. Craven Ward (2), \*Fisher, 382 (L); \*Whitehead (L), 335; Marshall, 227 (C); Hankinson (C), 187. Talbot Ward (2), \*Martin (L), 379; \*Eastham (L), 371; Robson (C), 328; Forshaw (C), 309. East Ward (2), \*Swire (L), 22; Dr. Barron (C), 22; W. Ball (C), 1. The poll in East Ward was only open a little over an hour, Mr. Ball declining to contest the election. Those marked \* were retiring councillors. In West Ward Mr. C. Barrow, and in East Ward Mr. G. Henry, did not offer themselves for re-election.

—November 9th. Alderman Smith re-elected mayor. At the election of four aldermen the contest was for

the first time political. The retiring aldermen were Messrs. Holt (L), Stephenson (L), Gregson (L), and Walker (C). Mr. Holt declined to be again nominated. The election resulted as follows: Mr. Stephenson (L), 26; Mr. Gregson, (L), 18; Mr. Segar (L), 17; Mr. Robinson (L), 15; Mr. Walker (C), 12; Mr. Swire (L), 10; Mr. Ireland (C), 10. For the two vacancies in Talbot Ward, caused by the aldermanic election, Messrs. Bracewell and Witham were returned unopposed.

——November 9th. The *Jeune Colombe*, a French barque, wrecked on the Horse-bank. The hull was afterwards sold by auction for a sovereign.

——December 17th. Portland Street Congregation School Church opened; Rev. G. Hinds first pastor.

——December 19th. Messrs. Lawson and Mansergh's Sewerage Scheme, estimated to cost £57,500, adopted by the Town Council. Mr. T. D. Barry, C.E., had propounded a scheme, which he estimated would cost £15,228. The Council passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Barry, but could not approve of his scheme being adopted.

1872—January 18th. Rev. J. L. Rentoul, M.A., ordained minister of the English Presbyterian Church, at that time worshipping in the Town Hall.

——February 27th. Thanksgiving services in all the places of worship in the parish for the recovery of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

——March 6th. Died, aged 84, Lady Scarisbrick. At the Preston Guild, in 1822, George IV. designated her "the finest woman in Europe."

- 1872—March 13th. Theatrical license granted to Mr. James Tingman, lessee of the Royal Music Hall, Portland Street. He called it the Bijou Theatre.
- April 15th to 22nd. Postal statistics : Despatched from the Southport Post-office—letters, 40,429 ; newspapers, 3,265 ; book packets, &c., 11,520 ; total, 55,214. Telegrams forwarded, 300 ; received, 357 ; transmitted, 10 ; total, 667. [*Vide* 1842, 1852, 1862, and 1882.]
- April 30th to May 4th. Bazaar in the Town Lall, on behalf of the building fund of St. Peter's Church, Birkdale. Result, £895.
- May. During excavations for the sewer in Gloucester Road, Birkdale, portions of a human skeleton were found. The skull was in good preservation, no doubt from the action of the peat moss, and was remarkably dense and firm in structure. From the depth at which it was found, it doubtless belonged to a far distant epoch.
- June. The Rev. W. Park, of Chapel Street Congregational Church, accepted a call to New Court Chapel, Tollington Park, London. On June 23rd he preached his farewell sermon, after a ministry of nearly three years.
- June 17th. St. Andrew's Church consecrated by the Bishop of Chester. Rev. Prebendary Cross, vicar.
- July 1st. Southport Bowling Club, Aughton Road, Birkdale, opened.
- July. Mr. B. L. Green, editor of the *Visitor*, appointed Secretary of the Manchester Nonconformist Association.

- 1872—July 23rd. St. Peter's Church consecrated by the Bishop of Chester. Architects, Messrs. T. D. Barry and Sons, Liverpool ; vicar, Rev. Francis Cooper.
- August 6th and 7th. Agricultural Show held in Scarisbrick New Road ; receipts for the two days, £566.
- August 20th. Councillor Dawson resigned his seat for Talbot Ward on leaving the town. Mr. Philip Stephenson elected his successor.
- August 22nd. Wesley Chapel, Aughton Road, Birkdale, opened by the Rev. Luke H. Wiseman, M.A., president of the Conference. Rev. S. Gregory appointed first minister. Architects, Messrs. Mellor and Sutton.
- August 23rd. Miss Jervis, of Birkdale, sued Mr. T. Sharples, landlord of the Union Hotel, for breach of promise, and was awarded £500 damages.
- August 26th. Died, Captain Flynn, adjutant of the 3rd Brigade Lancashire Artillery Volunteers. He was the founder of the Southport Volunteer Artillery Corps. His services in the Royal Artillery, which he joined as a private in 1841, and in which he rose to the high rank he held up to his death, were rewarded by the Crimean and Turkish medals. He had been adjutant of the 3rd Brigade 10 years.
- September 28th. The ship *Nazarene*, 815 tons, Captain Brewer, with a crew of 16, lost, with all hands, in a terrible storm. She had been left the Mersey six days, when she was driven ashore, near Burbo Bank. The New Brighton and Liverpool lifeboats went out, but could not find the vessel ; the Formby lifeboat was launched, but could make no headway, and Coxswain Rockcliffe, of

the Southport lifeboat, saw it was impossible for his boat to get at the distressed vessel, so did not launch his craft. Much adverse criticism was the result of Capt. Rockliffe's action, but the Lifeboat Committee held three exhaustive enquiries, and each time acquitted the coxswain of all blame.

——October 9th. Great gala in Southport on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of Cambridge Hall, by H.R.H. Princess Mary of Cambridge. The Duke of Teck, many peers, and members of Parliament were present. Architects, Messrs. Maxwell and Tuke, of Bury.

——October 15th. Terrible accident at the Artillery Battery ; Gunner Salmon, store-keeper of the Southport Artillery Volunteers, killed by the explosion of a shell.

——November 1st. First municipal election under the Ballot Act. The following changes were the result of the polling : West Ward, Mr. T. W. Barker (C) took the place of Dr. Lang (C), who did not offer himself again ; Craven Ward, Mr. J. Wainwright (L), *vice* Mr. E. W. Stocker (C), retired ; East Ward, Mr. A. Silcock (C), *vice* Mr. W. P. Clarke (L), retired. The balance of parties was unaltered.

——November 7th. Trinity Hall, Duke Street, a college for Wesleyan ministers' daughters, opened ; it had been built, at a cost of £8,000, by John Fernley, Esq. Architects, Messrs. Mellor and Sutton.

——November 9th. Councillor Swire elected mayor of Southport.

**1872**—November 19th. Extra-ordinary election in West Ward, *vice* Mr. C. E. Proctor (C), resigned. The candidates were Mr. Robert Jeffries (L) and Dr. Lang (C), the latter having retired in pique at the ordinary election. Result: Jeffries, 252; Lang, 232; majority for Jeffries, 20.

——December 6th. Died, aged 84, Rev. Thomas Stead, Wesleyan minister. He had been in the ministry 60 years.

——December 15th. Serious fire at St. Andrew's Church, when the new organ, value £700, was totally destroyed.

**1873**—January 14th. Rev. J. T. Woodhouse, formerly of Stockport, "recognised" minister of Chapel Street Congregational Chapel.

——January 16th. John Fernley, Esq., J.P., died, aged 76. His personalty was proved at £135,000, of which he left £42,000 to relatives, servants, &c., the balance being bequeathed to various religious and charitable objects.

——January 26th. Died, aged 39, Rev. Andrew Lynn, Methodist New Connexion minister.

——February 23rd. Rev. A. M. Stalker preached his last sermon as pastor of Houghton Street Baptist Chapel.

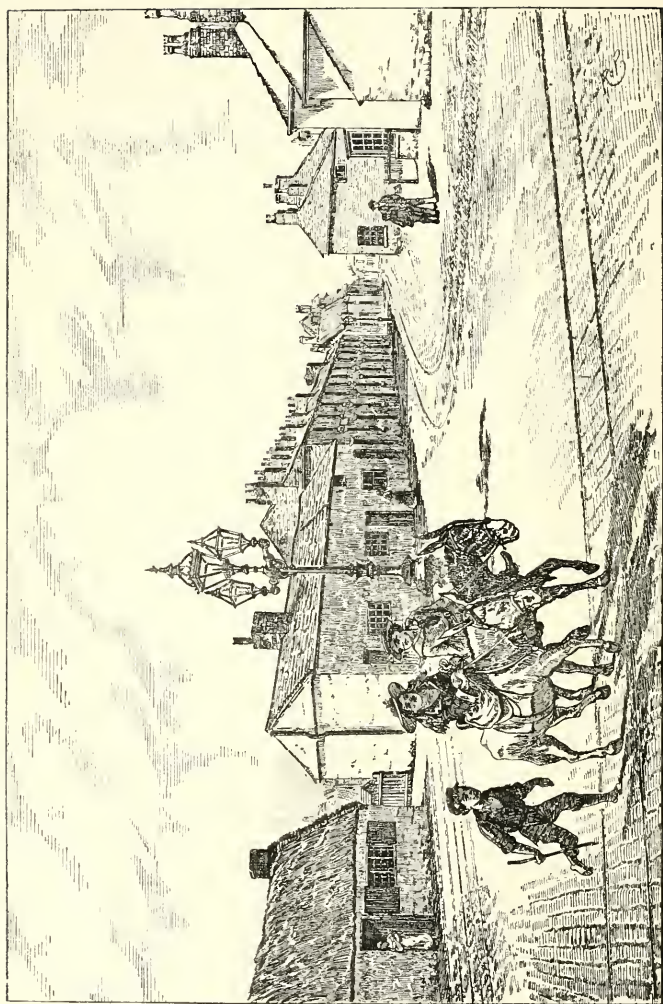
——March 2nd. Died, Mr. W. Sutton, senr., one of the original Improvement Commissioners, and a member of the governing body of the town almost to his death.

——March 4th. Captain Rockcliffe resigned command of the lifeboat, when he was decorated with the silver medal and second service clasp of the Royal Society. Charles Hodge was appointed coxswain in his place.

——April 8th. Mr. W. Lawton (L) elected councillor for West Ward, *vice* Captain Johnson (L), resigned.







CHURCHTOWN.

- 1873—April 19th. First sod of the West Lancashire Railway cut by the mayor of Southport (Councillor Swire).
- May 20th to 24th. Bazaar in aid of St. Peter's Church, parsonage, and schools. Three thousand pounds were required to free the church from debt, build the parsonage, &c., when on the 8th January, 1873, Mr. W. W. Atkinson, J.P., offered £1,000 conditionally on the remaining £2,000 being raised in six months. The bazaar realised £720, and on July 8th it was announced that the total amount had been raised.
- May 24th. Southport tramways completed. On May 31st traffic commenced from Weld Road, Birkdale, to Churchtown.
- June 26. A public meeting of the ratepayers, at which it was decided to petition for a separation from the Ormskirk Union.
- June 26th. West Lancashire Railway Bill (additional capital) passed.
- July 14th. The Crowlands Gasworks opened ; cost, £40,000.
- July 15th. Mr. Thomas Evans elected councillor for East Ward, *vice* Mr. Andrew Silcock, disqualified.
- July 19th. New organ opened at the Methodist New Connexion Chapel, Manchester Road.
- August 13th. Mr. W. Atkinson, J.P., offered to provide a clock and chimes for Cambridge Hall.
- August 31st. Died, aged 88, Mr. William Ball, clerk of Christ Church. From 1832 to 1853, Mr. Ball was schoolmaster of Christ Church National Schools, in which capacity he was commonly known as "Stick Billy."

From 1841 to his death he was clerk of the church, having in one capacity or another been connected with that place of worship from its building, at which he was employed.

——August. Revs. J. Chalmers, M.A., and F. W. Macdonald appointed Wesleyan ministers at Southport, *vice* Revs. E. E. Jenkins and T. Ackroyd.

——September. Rev. Thomas Henery instituted vicar of St. John's, Crossens, *vice* Rev. W. Cornwell, with whom he exchanged livings.

——September 15th. The French brigantine *Zoe*, of Roden, wrecked on the Horse-bank. The lifeboat went to her assistance, but whilst on the way to the north end of the bank, where the wreck lay, a boat was seen struggling to get round the south end. Dan Wright and a few others at once went out in the boat *Marco Polo*, and met the boat containing the crew of the *Zoe*, and towed it through the breakers, landing all safe at the pier. An amusing matter in the affair was that when the Frenchmen saw the *Marco Polo*, they looked on the crew as pirates, and would not for some time lay hold of the hawser thrown to them. However, on the rescuers setting sail for home, the unfortunate sailors cried for the help that was given them. On the lifeboat reaching the *Zoe*, the latter had sunk in 15 feet of water; the only trophy that could be obtained being the French ensign from the masthead. Next tide the wreck broke up.

——October 23rd. Captain Hesketh resigned the command of the 13th L.R.V., and was succeeded by Captain Macfie.

1873—November 1st. Municipal election ; results—West Ward (2), Dr. Lang (C), 245 ; \*Captain Ball (C), 235 ; Mr. Hart (L), 228 ; Mr. Wansbrough (L), 204 ; Mr. Barton (I), 4 ; \*Mr. Calrow (C) did not offer himself for re-election. Craven Ward (2), \*Messrs. Beswick (L) and \*Hodge (C), unopposed. Talbot Ward (2), Atherton (L), 420 ; Roberts (L), 385 ; Falcon (C), 236 ; Ball, brewer (C), 230 ; Messrs. \*Stephenson (L) and \*Bracewell (L) did not offer themselves for re-election. East Ward (2), \*Smallshaw (C), 184 ; \*Ireland (C), 176 ; Hobbs (L), 113 ; Thompson (L), 110. Those marked \* were the retiring members.

—November 9th. Councillor Swire re-elected mayor of Southport.

—November 18th. Foundation stone of St. George's English Presbyterian Church laid by the Earl of Kintore. Architect, Mr. Thomas Wylie ; builders, Messrs. Wishart and Irving. Cost, £5,000.

—December 4th. The Royal National Lifeboat Association ordered a new lifeboat to be placed on the Southport station, the *Jessie Knowles* being condemned. The legacy of John Fernley, Esq., was appropriated to this use, the boat to be named the *Eliza Fernley*, in memory of the wife of the donor.

—December 13th. Died, aged 69, Captain William Rockliffe. He was coxswain of the lifeboat from 1842 to 1873, and during that time assisted in saving no less than 367 lives. In the *Rescue* he brought ashore from different vessels 212 persons, in the *Jessie Knowles* 71, and in various shore boats 84. In addition he had, with

his crew, given assistance to 17 ships off the banks. He wore several medals, conferred on him for his lifeboat services.

———December 14th. The Rev. Thos. J. Clarke, M.A., preached his farewell sermon as vicar of St. Paul's Church.

1874—January 27th. Rev. A. McCormack preached his farewell sermon at Churchtown Independent Chapel, after a pastorate of seven years.

———January 29th. Messrs. Turner and Cross, M.P.'s, addressed their constituents in the Town Hall. At the general election they were returned unopposed.

———January 29th. The new lifeboat *Eliza Fernley* arrived. She was built of mahogany, the *Jessie Knowles* being of fir.

———February 6th. Rev. W. Millington, M.A., commenced his pastorate of St. Paul's Church.

———February. A memorial window erected at Banks Church, by Mr. T. H. Isherwood, in memory of Mrs. Ann Linaker.

———April 3rd. The foundation stone of Zion Chapel (Independent Methodist) laid by Alderman Smith, J.P.

———May 30th. Memorial stones of Methodist New Connexion Chapel, Manchester Road, laid by Mrs. Unwin, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Hadfield (for Mrs. Atherton), Mrs. Mayall, Mrs. Buckley, and Mrs. Pilling. Architects, Messrs. Mellor and Sutton; contract, £2,880; to seat 530.

———June 16th. The Town Council decided to petition for the incorporation of Churchtown and Crossens.

———July 5th. Rev. B. Swift, LL.B., resigned the vicarage of St. James, on account of ill health.

1874—July 13th. Five thousand Liverpool Orangemen visited Southport. A meeting was held at Churchtown. In the evening the scenes in the streets were disorderly in the extreme.

———July 25th. “Infirmity Saturday” established.

———August 9th. Rev. Robert Stephenson entered on the pastorate of St. James’, Birkdale.

———August 13th. Hannah Cumberbach, a domestic servant, sentenced to 18 months’ hard labour for concealment of birth on the 13th April. She had carried the child about, in a paper parcel, several days, one of which she spent in Manchester. A charge of wilful murder was dismissed at the assizes.

———August 19th. The Town Council apply to the Local Government Board for their approval of the Sewerage Scheme, and for power to raise the necessary loans.

———August 14th. Died, aged 51, the Rev. Richard Smetham, Wesleyan minister. He had been in the ministry 27 years.

———August 26th. Foundation stone of St. Andrew’s Hall laid by the mayor.

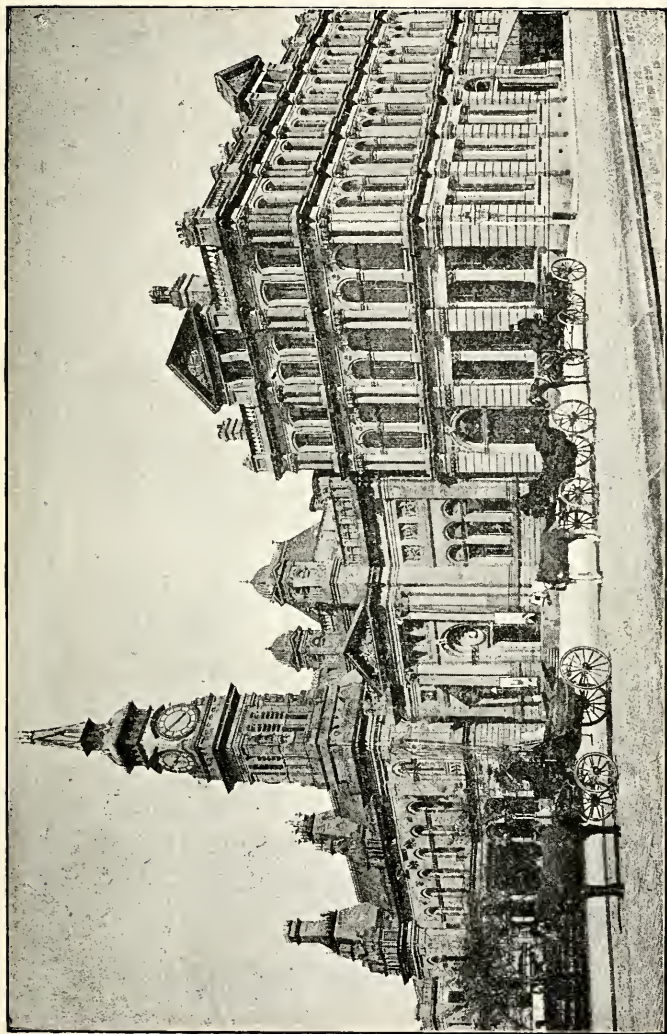
———September. Licenses granted to the Albert Hotel and the Winter Gardens.

———September 13th. “Infirmity Sunday” founded.

———September 16th. The Winter Gardens opened. Frank Buckland, Esq., gave an inaugural address, at which there was a large and illustrious company. Chairman, Walter Smith, Esq.; secretary, Mr. Edward Martin; manager, Mr. W. B. Leeming; architects, Messrs. Maxwell and Tuke; cost, £90,000.



- 1874—September 20th. St. George's Presbyterian Church opened by the Rev. J. Oswald Dykes, D.D., of London.
- September 23rd. Died, aged 73, Mr. James Whitehead, one of the councillors for Craven Ward.
- October 6th. Cambridge Hall opened by the Right Hon. R. A. Cross, M.P., one of the members for the division. There was a great gala, in which all classes of the community took part.
- October 21st and 22nd. Great gale, during which the new turret, 30 feet high, of Crossens Church, fell through the roof, in one mass.
- November 2nd. Municipal election, with the following results: West Ward (2), Correa (C), 303; Hart (L), 293; \*Jeffries (L), 251; Sadler (C), 229; \*Mr. Lawton (L) did not again offer himself. Craven Ward (2), \*Fisher (L), 458; Hacking (L), 413; Turvey (C), 317; Mr. Hacking took the place of Mr. Whitehead (L), deceased. Talbot Ward (2), Nicholson (L), 467; \*Martin (L), 420; Mather (C), 419; \*Mr. Eastham (L) did not offer himself for re-election. East Ward (2), \*Dr. Barron (C) and \*Mr. Swire (L) unopposed. Those marked \* were retiring councillors.
- November 9th. Walter Smith, Esq., J.P., elected mayor of Southport for the third time. Aldermen Boothroyd, Smith, Sutton, and Wood re-elected.
- November 14th. Special meeting of the Town Council to promote a bill for extending the borough and obtaining borrowing powers for the new Sewerage Scheme.



CAMBRIDGE HALL AND ATKINSON ART GALLERY.



1874—November 18th. Mr. Samuel Crompton, station-master at Chapel Street Station, killed on the line. In stepping out of the way of a goods train, he was caught and run over by a passenger engine.

——November 19th. Mrs. Swire, wife of the ex-mayor, burnt to death. The unfortunate lady was in her bedroom, when her nightdress caught fire at an unguarded gas-fire, and she was so severely burnt that death ensued almost immediately.

——November 21st. Memorial stones of the New Jerusalem Church, Duke Street, laid by Alderman Smith and other friends.

——December 2nd. Ratepayers' meeting, to agree to the borrowing powers for sewerage, and the incorporation of Churchtown and Crossens.

1875—January 25th. Talbot Ward Election Inquiry commenced. Mr. R. V. Mather, the Conservative candidate at the November election, had petitioned against the return of Mr. E. Martin, alleging that certain good votes had been disallowed by the returning officer, Mr. Ald. Sutton, and claiming the seat. The petitioner made no charge of illegal practices ; but the respondent, in his reply, alleged that the petitioner had, by his agents, been guilty of illegal acts. After a seven days' enquiry, the commissioner, Mr. Prentice, Q.C., found that Mr. Martin had a majority of lawful votes, but intimated that had the petitioner alleged illegal practices on the part of the respondent's agents, he would have declared the election void, as he thought there were cases proved on both sides. Alderman Sutton, having failed to write the word

“rejected” on the votes disallowed by him, was ordered to pay his own costs, which amounted to £137. As to the petition, both sides must pay their own costs; and on the recriminatory charges, they having been proved, the petitioner to pay the costs.

——February 4th. St. Andrew’s Hall opened by the Rev. Dr. Clarke, on behalf of William Atkinson, Esq., J.P.

——February 6th. New Drill Hall of the 13th L.R.V., Hawes Side Street, opened.

——February 8th. Free Libraries’ Act adopted by the ratepayers.

——March 30th. A dispute having arisen as to the ownership of pews in Christ Church, Mr. Atkinson bought nearly all owned by non-parishioners, and presented them to the Rev. Dr. Clarke.

——April. Post-office removed from Chapel Street to Cambridge Hall. The old post-office had been sold to Parr’s Banking Company.

——April 14th to 17th. Bazaar in Cambridge Hall, on behalf of St. George’s Presbyterian Church. The sum required was £1,400, the amount realised being £1,750.

——April. William Atkinson, Esq., J.P., offered to build a free Public Library and Art Gallery, at a cost of £6,000.

——May 3rd. The *Southport Independent* had for several months been published three times weekly as the *Southport News*. On May 3rd it became the *Southport Daily News*.

——May 15th. Churchtown Botanic Gardens opened by the Rev. Chas. Hesketh, who then laid the foundation stone of the principal conservatory. Messrs. Mellor and

Sutton were the architects, and Mr. John Shaw, of Manchester, landscape gardener ; curator, Mr. W. Fish ; cost, £18,000.

- May 18th. Dr. Craven died. The incorporation of the town was mainly due to him. His memory is perpetuated in the name of one of the wards.
- May 24th. The Free Library opened in the Exchange Buildings, London Square.
- June 30th. A branch of Parr's Bank opened at the old Post-office place, Chapel Street.
- July 5th. The books of the Athenæum Library handed over to the Free Library Committee on the committee undertaking the liabilities of the Athenæum.
- July 6th. A chronograph and purse (containing £100) presented to G. A. Coombe, Esq., the first house-surgeon to the Southport Infirmary, he having resigned the appointment in February. Dr. Potts was appointed his successor, but resigned in the following September.
- July 11th. The New Jerusalem Church, Duke Street, opened.
- July 28th. The Agricultural Show held on the Cemetery Road ground ; receipts for the day, £560.
- August 1st. The New Improvement Act came in force, by which Hesketh and Scarisbrick Wards were incorporated.
- August 31st. The Rev. Dr. Moffat, the eminent African missionary, visited Southport, and preached at Chapel Street Chapel.
- September 6th. Dr. Peter Wood, J.P., presented £1,000 towards enlarging or improving the Infirmary.

**1875**—September 9th. The Rev. Levi Nuttall installed pastor of Hoghton Street Baptist Chapel.

———October 5th. The first sitting of the County Court at Southport.

———October 15th. William Hawkeshead Talbot, Esq., J.P., senior "Scarisbrick Trustee," died.

———November 1st. Municipal elections; results: West Ward (2), H. Hodge (L), 281; E. Iddon (L), 268; R. Sadler (C), 239; Turvey (C), 203; \*J. Scott (C), 52; \*Mr. Barker (C) did not offer himself again. Craven Ward (2), \*T. P. Griffiths (L), 497; \*J. Wainwright (L), 446; W. Blundell (C), 196; R. Rimmer (C), 163. Talbot Ward (2), C. H. Brown (L), 456; \*J. Witham (L), 421; J. P. Duessen (C), 68; \*Mr. Kettle (L) did not offer himself for re-election. East Ward (2), \*J. Marchbank (C), 209; \*T. Evans (C), 194; W. V. Hodgson (L), 145; E. Vincent (L), 137. Those marked \* were the retiring members. First election for the new wards, three councillors for each ward to be elected: Scarisbrick Ward, S. L. Booth (L), 161; E. Hobson (L), 161; W. Lyon (L), 160; T. Sherrat (C), 96; J. Peet (C), 89; J. Linaker (C), 81. Hesketh Ward, R. Johnson (C), 163; T. Hunt (C), 132; P. Blundell (C), 131; W. Vaughan (L), 116.

———November 9th. Alderman Walter Smith, J.P., elected fourth time mayor of Southport. Councillors Swire and Fisher elected aldermen for the new wards. For the vacancies thus created, Mr. R. Jeffries was elected councillor for Craven Ward, and Mr. W. J. Robson for East Ward.



1875—November 10th. New Improvement Bill promoted, proposing to borrow £220,000 for the extension of the gasworks, £40,000 for new markets, £7,000 for workmen's houses, £5,000 for a new town's yard, and £3,000 for various improvements. Also to extend the Promenade north and south, and to incorporate Birkdale.

——November 27th. Sims Reeves appeared at Sloan and Watson's concert in Cambridge Hall.

——December 23rd. Died, Alderman Amos Gregson.

1876—January 6th. Councillor R. Nicholson (L) elected alderman, *vice* Mr. A. Gregson deceased.

——January 7th. Died, Rev. Jonathan Jackson, M.A. J.P., first vicar of Holy Trinity Church.

——January 11th. Mr. Abel Matley, the Government tax collector, arrested, his deficit being stated at £418, besides which he was alleged to have appropriated money of which he was trustee in bankruptcy.

——February 4th. Ratepayers' meeting *re* the Improvement Bill, which was approved by a large majority. A poll of the town was demanded, when 2871 votes were given in favour of the Bill, and 1106 against; majority, 1765.

——February 8th. Councillor T. P. Griffiths elected alderman, *vice* Dr. Peter Wood, J.P., resigned. The vacancy in Craven Ward was filled by the election of Mr. James H. A. Linaker.

——February 11th. The ratepayers of Birkdale resolved to oppose the Southport Improvement Bill.

——February 21st. The Jubilee Singers visited Southport.

- 1876**—February 27th. Rev. George Hinds resigned the pastorate of Portland Street Congregational Church.
- April 1st. Richard Thompson (42), a Churchtown huckster, stabbed his wife, who was conveyed to the Infirmary, where she died. Thompson was committed for trial on the capital charge; but at the assizes it appeared that deceased died from puerperal fever, which supervened, and not directly from the wounds; he was found guilty of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, and sentenced to penal servitude for life.
- April. Churchtown Botanic Gardens opened.
- April 10th. The foundation stone of Portland Street Congregational Church laid by E. B. Dawson, Esq., of Lancaster.
- May 10th. Memorial stones of Southbank Road Wesleyan School Chapel, and of Wesley Sunday Schools, Kent Road, Birkdale, laid by H. Mathwin, senr., Esq.
- May 15th. Southport Improvement Bill passed the House of Commons' Committee.
- May. All Saints' parish formed out of the district attached to St. Cuthbert's.
- June. Smallpox introduced into Southport by visitors. The disease rapidly spread, and did much injury to the town, though far more injury was caused by the exaggerated reports issued from Blackpool and other places. The authorities promptly took the matter in hand, and though it was not until August that the town was declared free from the scourge, only 27 deaths were recorded from that disease during the entire year. The reports circulated from Blackpool alleged "hundreds





REV. CHARLES HESKETH, M.A.

dying every week." The following year there was one death from smallpox ; but since 1877 there has not been a single death registered in Southport from that disease.

——June. Rev. Dr. Clarke appointed hon. canon of Chester.

——June. Rev. Charles Stead Hope, M.A., appointed vicar of Holy Trinity Church, *vice* Rev. Jonathan Jackson, deceased.

——July 13th. The Union Hotel closed. A few days later it was demolished to make room for the Prince of Wales Hotel.

——July 15th. Died, aged 72, the Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A., rector of North Meols, rural dean, and one of the lords of the manor. Three rectors had held the living over 128 years [*vide* 1748 and 1793], the late rector filling the office just 41 years. The whole parish seemed to go into mourning on the occasion of the funeral.

——July 23rd. Mr. and Mrs. John Capstick attempted to cross the Ribble by fording, near Freckleton, and were both drowned.

——August. Rev. E. Lightwood appointed minister at Mornington Road Wesleyan Chapel, *vice* Rev. J. Chalmers, M.A. Rev. D. J. Waller appointed to Trinity Chapel, *vice* Rev. F. W. Macdonald.

——August 7th. Died, John Robinson, fisherman, on whose life the lease of "Little London" was held.

——August. T. W. Barker, Esq., appointed deputy-coroner.

——September 5th, 6th, and 7th. The County Agricultural Show held at Southport ; proceeds over £2,000.

1876—September 12th. Richard Wild, Esq., J.P., died, aged 67.

———September. The West Lancashire Railway works, which had been at a standstill many months, resuscitated.

———October. Rev. C. T. Porter, LL.D., appointed first vicar of All Saints' Church

———November 1st. Municipal elections uncontested. In West Ward, Mr. M'Crossan (L) took the place of Dr. Lang (C) ; and in Craven Ward, Mr. Seth Moore (L) replaced Mr. I. Beswick (L).

———November 9th. Alderman Nicholson elected Mayor. The same afternoon the foundation stone of the Atkinson Free Library and Art Gallery was laid by the Rev. Canon Clarke, D.D., on behalf of William Atkinson, Esq., who had undertaken to defray the whole cost, £8,000. Messrs. Waddington and Sons, Burnley, were the architects.

1877—January 7th. Rev. W. H. Dyson commenced his ministry at Portland Street Congregational Church.

———January 24th. Southbank Road Wesleyan School Chapel, opened by the Rev. E. E. Jenkins. Architects, Messrs. Maxwell and Tuke ; builder, Mr. T. Bridge ; cost, £1,534.

———January 30th. Wesley Schools, Birkdale, opened. Messrs. Mellor and Sutton, architects ; Mr. T. Bridge, builder ; cost, £3,000.

———February 15th. Peter Wood, Esq., M.D., J.P., died, aged 65. Dr. Wood was many years chairman of the Improvement Commissioners, and was the first mayor of the borough.

- 1877—February 20th. Portland Street Congregational Church opened by Mr. R. W. Dale, M.A., of Birmingham. Messrs. Mellor and Sutton, architects ; Mr. Thos. Cheet-ham, builder.
- March 5th. George Heginbottom, Esq., J.P., of Birkdale, died, aged 67.
- April 3rd. Foundation stone of the Southport Glaciarium laid by Admiral the Right Hon. Lord Clarence Paget.
- April 3rd. The Conservative Club, Nevill Street, opened by Colonel Ireland-Blackburne, M.P.
- April 11th. The corporation fined £5 for using the Town Hall for music, without having a licence ; and £5 for allowing a performance in Cambridge Hall on Good Friday. The Winter Gardens Company were also fined £5 for having a concert on Good Friday.
- April. Captain E. F. Hesketh placed on the Commission of the Peace for the county.
- May 5th. The *Visiter* since this date has been published three times a week.
- May 5th. All Saints' Church consecrated by the Bishop of Chester.
- May 10th. Died, Mr. William Halliwell, J.P., aged 75. To Dr. Craven and Mr. Halliwell the town owed the Charter of Incorporation. During the Anti-Corn Law struggle Mr. Halliwell was one of Cobden's ablest lieutenants.
- June 26th. Southport Parliamentary Debating Society founded.



- 1877—July. The first annual report of the Cottage Eye Hospital issued. Mr. Robert Heywood McKeand, one of the ablest oculists in the country, having retired to Southport, opened a Cottage Eye Hospital in Virginia Street. The first balance-sheet showed receipts £297. 15s. 2d., expenditure £287. 18s. 9d.
- August 8th. Died, aged 62, Rev. David Hay, Wesleyan Minister. He had been in the ministry 42 years.
- September 3rd. Dr. Barron and Mr. S. Swire placed on the Commission of the Peace for the county.
- September 13th, 14th, and 15th. Bazaar in Cambridge Hall on behalf of St. Peter's Church. Result, £458. 18s. 10d.
- November 1st. The only change at the municipal election was in Talbot Ward, where Mr. W. Welsby (L) took the place of Mr. E. Martin (L).
- November 9th. Alderman Nicholson re-elected Mayor. At the Aldermanic election Messrs. Nicholson, Fisher, Robinson, and Stephenson were re-elected, and Councillor Witham was elected *vice* Alderman Segar, who declined re-election. Mr. Stephenson had declined to take office again, and, though re-elected, refused to qualify. Mr. W. V. Hodgson (L) had been elected in place of Mr. Witham as Councillor for Talbot Ward. Mr. Welsby was elected Alderman *vice* Mr. Stephenson, and there was a contest in Talbot Ward for the vacancy. Mr. W. E. Hobbs (L) was elected by 562 votes against 333 recorded for Mr. T. Sherrat (C).
- December 19th. The Southport National Agricultural Society founded.

- 1878—January 5th. Dr. John Lang killed by an explosion of gas. One of his servants had discovered gas to be escaping in the billiard room, and the doctor getting on the table for the purpose of discovering the place of leakage, struck a match, when the explosion took place, bringing down the ceiling and burying him in the debris; death was instantaneous.
- January 14th. Rev. Thomas Henery, M.A., vicar of Crossens, died, aged 56. On the 6th March the trustees presented the Rev. W. T. Bulpit, of Banks, to the vacancy. The vacancy at St. Stephen's-in-the-Banks was filled by the appointment of the Rev. Henry Greene.
- February 19th. West Lancashire Railway opened between Windsor Road, Southport, and Hesketh Bank.
- February 21st. The Atkinson Art Gallery opened by the mayor (Alderman Nicholson), to whom Mr. Atkinson presented a silver key on a silver salver. There was a banquet held in celebration of the ceremony. The galleries were filled with a loan exhibition of pictures.
- February 28th. Testimonial presented to the Rev. F. Minton, M.A., curate of Christ Church, on his leaving to accept a Cheshire vicarage to which he had been presented. Mr. Minton had established a church (iron) in Scarisbrick New Road, the nucleus of St. Philip's. It was mainly by this congregation that the testimonial was presented.
- March 29th. The "British" Day School, Upper Portland Street, opened.
- May 11th. Government inquiry at Southport before H.M. Commissioners, Messrs. Frank Buckland and

Spencer Walpole, *re* the alleged destruction of the fry and spawn of sea fish by the use of the trawl net or beam trawl, and of the sieve net or ground sieve.

———May 18th. Serious fire in Nevill Street, which did damage to the value of £3,400, at the establishments of Mr. Hobbs and Mr. Hewitt.

———June 10th. The Cambridge Road tramway opened.

———June 18th. Mr. R. Watson (C) elected councillor for Craven Ward, *vice* Mr. Wainwright (L) resigned.

———June 20th. The annual assembly of the Presbyterian and Unitarian congregations of Lancashire and Cheshire, held at Portland Street Chapel, Southport.

———June 27th. Terrible thunderstorm, during which a lad at Banks, named John Howard, aged 12, was struck dead by lightning.

———June 29th. Foundation stones of Churchtown Primitive Methodist Chapel, Marshside Lane, laid by the mayor (Alderman Nicholson) and Dr. Goodman. Architect, Mr. R. Owen, Liverpool; builder, Mr. W. Vaughan; cost, £1,700.

———July 2nd. Memorial stones of the United Methodist Free Church, Duke Street, laid by the mayor (Alderman Nicholson) and George Mansell, Esq. (ex-mayor of Rochdale). Architect, Messrs. Maxwell, Tuke and Hurst; builder, Mr. James Cheetham; cost, £8,000.

———July. The Rev. J. L. Rentoul, M.A., pastor of St. George's Presbyterian Church, accepted a call to East St. Kilda, Melbourne.

———August 1st. Southport "National" Agricultural Society held its first show on the Cemetery Road ground.

1878—August 21st. The Ormskirk and Southport Agricultural Society held its annual show at Southport.

——September 18th. A Branch Free Library opened at Churchtown.

——September 25th. Memorial Stones of a new Wesleyan Chapel, Leyland Road, laid by the Rev. Dr. Pope, J. Wheeler, Esq., J. F. Stead, Esq., and Jas. Wood, Esq., LL.B. Messrs. Waddington and Son, Burnley, architects ; Messrs. Bridge and Son, builders ; cost, £10,000.

——October 18th. Lord Skelmersdale, R.W.P.G.M. laid the foundation stone of St. Luke's Church with full Masonic honours.

——November 1st. Municipal elections. West Ward (2), Messrs. \*Hodge (L) and \*Iddon (L). Mr. J. Thorley (C) was nominated, but was disqualified through an error in the nomination paper. Craven Ward (2), \*Linaker (L), 393 ; Wainwright (L), 370 ; Booth (I), 223 ; Keen (I), 181 ; Farrar (L), 5. Talbot Ward (2), Messrs. \*Brown (L) and Sergeant (L) unopposed ; Mr. Hodgson (L) retired. East Ward (2), Messrs. \*Marchbank (C) and \*Evans (C). Scarisbrick Ward (1), \*E. Hobson (L). Hesketh Ward (1), \*R. Johnson (C). In Craven Ward Messrs. \*Watson and Davenport, and in East Ward Mr. Sherrat, all Conservatives, had been proposed, but the nominations were bad, owing to informalities in the signatures. The retiring members are marked \*.

——November 9th. Alderman Boothroyd elected Mayor for the third time.

——November 29th. The Church of Christ, Mornington Road, opened. The Rev. W. T. Moore, M.A., minister.

**1878**—December 3rd. The Victoria Footbridge opened.

——December 16th. Birkdale Drill Hall (13th L.R.V.) opened.

——December. Intense poverty existed in the town much aggravated by the exceedingly severe winter. Subscriptions opened for the relief of the distress realized £1,500, which was distributed in soup, bread coal, clothing, &c., by a committee under the presidency of the Mayor.

——December 28th. The new North of England Children's Sanatorium, Hawkshead Street South, opened by the Right Hon. Lady Lindsay.

**1879**—January 10th. Southport Glaciarium opened by Edward Holden, Esq. The first curling match took place on January 16th.

——February 8th. Died, aged 41, Miss Caroline Fleetwood Sumner Hesketh, youngest daughter of the late Rev. Chas. Hesketh.

——March 4th. Municipal election. Craven Ward, *vice* Mr. Jeffries (L) resigned. Mr. R. Watson (C), 425 ; Mr. R. Lloyd (L), 367.

——March 6th. Town's meeting called to protest against the erection of new markets. The resolution was carried, but the Corporation ignored it, the town having previously been polled, and declared largely in favour of the scheme (February, 1876).

——March 10th. Mr. J. B. Gough, the famous Temperance advocate, addressed a large meeting in Cambridge Hall.

——March 10th. The first "Spring Exhibition" of pictures opened in the Atkinson Art Gallery.

- 1879—March 13th. Died, Captain W. H. Walker, aged 65. He had taken a very active part in the affairs of the town, having been commissioner, councillor, and alderman. He was one of the founders of the 13th L.R.V.
- March 28th. Died, at Llandudno, Mr. Edwin W. Stocker, aged 48.
- April 17th. A memorial stone to the memory of the late rector, fixed in All Saints' Church by Lord Skelmersdale.
- May 3rd. The "Southport Hunt" races held at Ainsdale—the first and last time.
- June 5th. The Rev. J. Mellis, M.A., of the Free Church of Scotland, Carnbee, Fifeshire, accepted pastorate of St. George's Presbyterian Church.
- June 14th. Drs. McNicoll and Coombe elected Honorary Medical Officers of the Infirmary, *vice* Drs. Segar and Elias resigned.
- July 31st. Second (and last) Show of the Southport National Agricultural Society.
- August. Rev. T. Wilde appointed Superintendent Minister at Mornington Road Wesleyan Circuit; Rev. D. C. Ingram, Trinity Circuit.
- September 2nd. Two illuminated addresses and a diamond ring presented to Dr. F. R. Murray on his resigning the post of House Surgeon to the Infirmary, after four years' service.
- September 7th. United Methodist Free Church, Duke Street, opened by the Rev. A. Holliday, ex-President of the Connexion

**1879**—September 18th. Great Fête and Gala. Lord Derby cut the first sod of the New Promenade extension, and laid the foundation stone of the Markets.

—September 18th to 20th. First Grand Curling Tournament at the Glaciarium for the Holden Challenge Shield, value 50 guineas, presented by E. Holden, Esq. Thirteen clubs competed, the Manchester Rink being the victors.

—October 2nd. The Right Hon. Sir W. V. Harcourt opened the Southport Reform Club. Great meeting in Cambridge Hall.

—October 14th to 19th. Bazaar on behalf of St. Luke's Church opened by Lord Skelmersdale. Result, £1,728.

—October 16th. High tide and gale, which did great damage to the Promenade extension works.

—November 1st. Municipal elections. West Ward (2), Messrs. \*Ball (C) and \*McCrossan (L) unopposed. Craven Ward (2), Davenport (C), 407; \*Moore (L), 356; Simpkin (I), 99; Speddy (I), 33; \*Mr. Hodge (C), retired. Talbot Ward (2), Messrs. \*Atherton (L) and Roberts (L) unopposed. East Ward (2), Messrs. \*Smallshaw (C) and Sherrat (C) [*vice* \*Ireland (C) retired]. Scarisbrick Ward (1), \*W. Lyon (L). Hesketh Ward (1), \*Blundell (C), 147; W. Vaughan (L), 108. The retiring members are marked \*.

—November 10th. Alderman Boothroyd re-elected Mayor—fourth time.

—November 10th. A fatal accident occurred to the eldest son of the Town Clerk. Mr. W. K. Walton, aged



17½ years, an articled clerk with his father, was loading a revolver, when it went off, shooting him dead on the spot.

———December 14th. West Lancashire Bank Buildings opened.

1880—January 26th. Died, aged 66, ex-Alderman Jonas Segar, Esq

———March. The new main sewer completed at a cost of £120,000.

———March 22nd. General Election. Messrs. Rathbone and Molineux, Liberal candidates, addressed the electors in Cambridge Hall. On the following evening Messrs. Cross and Blackburne, the Conservative candidates, met their constituents in the same place.

———April 14th. Birkdale Conservative Club established.

———April 15th. First appointment of Justices of the Peace for the borough. The following is the first list of appointments, viz.: Messrs. J. Atkinson, S. Boothroyd, Joseph Davies, H. L. Gregory, J. L. Hordern, W. Houghton, R. Nicholson, W. Smith, J. F. Stead, S. Swire, W. Thomas, M.D., J. Thorley, G. H. Thorniley, Captain Hesketh, and Dr. Blumberg.

———April 16th. New Bishopric of Liverpool; Rev. Canon Clarke, D.D., elected Proctor in Convocation, and appointed Bishop's Chaplain.

———April 19th. Dr. McKeand died. In consequence the Cottage Eye Hospital, Virginia Street, was closed.

———April 20th. Mr. Keighley Walton having been appointed Town Clerk of Halifax, resigned his Southport appointment.

- 1880**—April 21st to 23rd. Champion Curling Tournament for the Holden Challenge Shield at the Glaciarium. Fourteen rinks competed, the successful one being that of Liverpool.
- May 27th. St. Luke's Church opened by licence as Chapel-of-Ease to Holy Trinity. Rev. C. S. Hope preached in the morning, Archdeacon Bardsley in the evening. Next day the Rector preached in the morning, and the Bishop of Manchester in the evening.
- May. Dr. G. A. Woods resigning the post of Honorary Medical Officer to the Infirmary, was succeeded by Dr. Smith.
- June 2nd. Leyland Road Wesleyan Chapel opened by the Rev. Dr. Pope. At the following Conference the Rev. T. Allen was appointed to the chapel.
- June 8th. Mr. John Henry Ellis, of Halifax, elected Town Clerk, *vice* Mr. K. Walton resigned.
- June 15th to 17th. The Lancashire and Cheshire Association of Baptist Churches held their Annual Meeting in Southport.
- July. The Scarisbrick Trustees offered the corporation fifteen acres of land, in Scarisbrick New Road, for a park. As the conditions of the gift would have necessitated an outlay of £13,000 the council declined the offer.
- August. Rev. Levi Nuttall resigned his pastorate of the Baptist Chapel.
- August. Rev. Jacob Stephenson, B.A., appointed to Wesley Chapel, Birkdale.
- September 4th. Bishop Ryle preached in Southport, at Christ Church, morning and evening, for the first time.

1880—September 9th. Centenary of Sunday Schools' Demonstration, in which thirty schools were represented by 5,000 scholars.

———October 5th to 7th. Curling tournament for the Holden Challenge Shield. Seventeen rinks competed—Alloa won.

———October 26th. Memorial stones of Hawkshead Street Congregational School Church laid by Mrs. Boothroyd, Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Sidebottom, and Miss Carver.

———November 1st. Municipal elections. West Ward (2), Cockshott (C), 379; Gregory (C), 357; Wilkinson (L), 292; \*Hart (L), 274. \*Mr. Correa (C) did not offer himself. Craven Ward (2), \*Hacking (L), 522; \*Watson (C), 437; Pierce (C), 371; Simpkin (I), 168. Talbot Ward (2), Betham (C), 537; \*Lawton (L), 532; \*Hobbs (L), 508; Thorniley (C), 455; Sheard (I), 10. East Ward (2), Thorley (C), 242; Unwin (L), 221; \*Mather (C), 201; Hyde (L), 181. \*Dr. Barron (C) did not offer himself. Scarisbrick Ward (1), \*Booth (L), 214; Part (C), 138. Hesketh Ward (1), Vaughan (L), 142; Vincent (C), 128. \*Mr. T. Hunt (C) retired. Those marked \* were retiring members.

———November 9th. Alderman Sutton elected mayor. Aldermen Boothroyd, Sutton, Swire, Smith, and Griffiths re-elected.

———November. Suspected murder at Birkdale. Joseph Wildigg and his wife arrested on suspicion of the murder of the woman's son, Alfred Brewer, aged 8. No trace of the child could be found, and after several remands the prisoners were discharged.

**1880**—November 10th. Died, aged 67, Mr T. Ireland, ex-town councillor.

——November. The Southport and Cheshire Lines Extension Railway promoted.

——November 13th. Mary Seddon, a widow, a servant in Birkdale, murderously assaulted by a notorious woman, named Mary Fahy. She was struck on the head with a poker, from the results of which she died on December 4th. Mary Fahy was sent for trial for murder, and was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to ten months' hard labour.

——November 28th. Two men, named Richard Ball (32) and Charles Rimmer (25), drowned whilst attempting to make secure a boat belonging to Rimmer. A gale and high tide prevailed at the time.

——December. William Atkinson, Esq., gave £5,500 to the Library Committee, to clear the establishment from debt. This made a total gift of £13,500 on account of the Library and Art Gallery. This noble donation the donor requested the corporation to accept without passing any vote of thanks.

**1881**—January 3rd. The Southport Poultry Club held its first annual show.

——January 4th. Died, aged 83, Admiral Barton, who had been a public man in Southport nearly forty years. At his death the lease of South Hill Cottage expired.

——January 17th. The Southport and West Lancashire Bank stopped payment, with liabilities amounting to £343,956, besides paid-up share capital. The depositors were received by the other banks, who willingly honoured

their cheques to the amounts shown in their bank books. The assets of the Southport and West Lancashire Bank nominally amounted to £551,770; but they had undoubtedly lost £190,000. On the 9th February the shareholders decided to re-construct the bank under the old name, which was done in June, the new bank taking all the liabilities of the old one.

——February 17th. “Gas Exhibition” in Cambridge Hall; an exhibition showing the kinds of appliances to which gas can be put.

——February 18th. The *Liverpool and Southport Daily News* ceased, suddenly; the proprietor announcing that through the lack of support hitherto accorded to the paper, and the recent stoppage of the bank, he was convinced that the paper could not be a financial success.

——March 9th. The Rev. S. Vincent, of Great Yarmouth, accepted the pastorate of Hoghton Street Baptist Chapel.

——March. Miss Ball, of Queen’s Road, at her death, bequeathed her collection of pictures to the Atkinson Art Gallery.

——March 30th. Died, Rev. J. E. Millson, aged 81. He became minister of Chapel Street Congregational Church in 1850, continuing in office till failing health compelled him to give up active work about 1869.

——April 5th to 7th. Fourth bi-annual competition for the Holden Challenge Shield, for which seventeen rinks entered, Newcastle being the fortunate club.

——April 19th. Bazaar on behalf of All Saints’ Church opened by the Earl of Lathom. It realised over £1,000.

**1881**—April. Census. Number of inhabitants in the borough, 32,191 ; rest of township of North Meols, 1,551 ; Birkdale, 8,706 ; total for the parish, 42,448. Number of houses in borough, 6,425 ; rest of township, 311 ; Birkdale, 1,561 ; total, 8,297.

——May 17th to 21st. Grand bazaar for St. Luke's Church, which realized £3,000.

——May 29th. The Congregational School-Chapel, Hawkshead Street South, opened by the Rev. Edwin Walker, of Pendleton.

——June 6. The A.M.C. of Oddfellows held at Southport.

——June 9th. Foundation stone of a Wesleyan Chapel at High Park laid by James Wood, Esq., LL.B.

——June 29th. Southport and Cheshire Lines Extension Railway Bill passed the House of Lords, with a clause stopping it at Weld Road, Birkdale.

——July. The Rev. Thomas Holland, B.A., resigned his ministry at the Unitarian Chapel.

——August. The Town Clerk issued his report upon the foreshore question, based on the *Inspeximus* (*vide* pp. 11 to 15).

——August 29th. The Southport and West Lancashire Bank re-opened.

——August 30th. Died, R. M. Whitlow, Esq., J.P., aged 88.

——September 7th. Great gala at the opening of the new Market, by Lord Derby, and the Promenade Extension, by Lord Lathom. There was a procession followed by a banquet. The market tenants were in

old English dress, and at night there was a torchlight procession.

———October 18th to 20th. Bi-annual Curling Tournament, in which seventeen rinks competed, the shield being won by Lilybank.

———November 1st. Municipal Elections. West Ward (2), T. Parker (C), 362 ; E. Vincent (C), 333 ; D. Lloyd (L), 303 ; J. Boyd (L), 290. Messrs. \*Iddon (L) and \*Hodge (L) did not offer themselves for re-election. Craven Ward (2), Duxfield (L), 487 ; Pierce (C), 484 ; \*Linaker (L), 410. \*Mr. Wainwright (L) did not offer himself again. Talbot Ward (2), Wood (L), 212 ; \*Sergeant (L), 187 ; Thorniley (C), 10. \*Mr. C. H. Brown retired. East Ward (2), \*Marchbank (C), 233 ; Walker (C), 217 ; Coombe (L), 191 ; Bridge (L), 133. \*Mr. Evans (C) did not offer himself. Scarisbrick Ward (1), \*E. Hobson (L). Hesketh Ward (1), \*R. Johnson (C). Those marked \* were old members.

———November 9th. Alderman Sutton re-elected Mayor. Councillor Roberts resigned his seat in the Council.

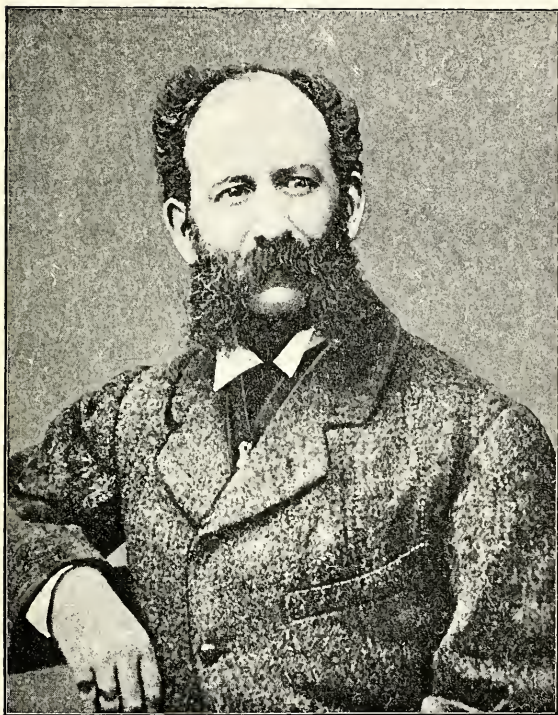
———November 26th. Election in Talbot Ward, *vice* Mr. Roberts (L) resigned—Thorniley (C), 549 ; Heyward (L), 499.

———November 30th. The Earl of Lathom elected a governor of University College, Liverpool, to represent Southport.

———December 1st. Special meeting of the Town Council to arrange clauses in the new Bill of the Southport and Cheshire Lines Extension Railway.



- 1882—January. The West Lancashire Railway Company proposed to make a branch line along the shore to the new railway. It was opposed by the corporation, and withdrawn.
- January. The 13th L.R.V., with the Ormskirk Volunteers, formed into a separate battalion: Captain A. A. Ruck appointed first adjutant; Lieutenant-Colonel Macfie, commanding; Adjutant Ruck, Major.
- March 6th. The members of the Southport Building Society, at the 24th annual meeting, decided to dissolve the society.
- March 22nd. By deed poll, bearing this date, George Augustus Coombe, Esq., adopted the name of "Pilkington," in place of that of "Coombe."
- April 11th. Dr. Tom A. Elias died suddenly from an overdose of morphia.
- April 15th to 21st. Postal statistics. Number of letters despatched from Southport, 48,629; post cards, 5,416; newspapers, 4,743; books, &c., 12,364; total, 71,152. Telegrams forwarded, 762; received, 1,156; transmitted, 314; total, 2,232. [*Vide* 1842, 1852, 1862, and 1872.]
- April 25th to 27th. Sixth bi-annual Curling Tournament, won by Sheffield. Twenty-two rinks competed.
- May 3rd to 6th. Bazaar on behalf of Crossens new Church realized £1,620.
- June. Captain E. F. Hesketh, J.P., appointed Hon. Colonel to the 13th L.R.V.



COLONEL E. F. HESKETH, J.P.



- 1882—June. The University of Edinburgh conferred the degree of LL.D. on Mr. James Wood, LL.B., of Southport.
- July 29th. The first number of the *Southport Guardian* published.
- August. Rev. D. C. Ingram appointed to Mornington Road Wesleyan Chapel, *vice* Rev. T. Wilde. Rev. W. H. Tindall appointed to Trinity Wesleyan Circuit, *vice* Rev. D. C. Ingram.
- September 4th. West Lancashire Railway opened through to Preston for the Guild week. The formal opening took place September 15th, when a banquet was given in the Winter Gardens.
- September 15th. Two new treble bells (F sharp and G) added to the peal in Christ Church tower.
- September 17th. Census of religious worship taken at the various chapels in Southport and Birkdale. Morning attendance: Church of England, 5,687; Dissenters, 6,461; Roman Catholic, 1,219; total, 13,375. Evening attendance: Church of England, 5,647; Dissenters, 6,384; Roman Catholic, 745; total, 12,776.
- September 24th. Rev. J. Ashby commenced his pastorate at the New Jerusalem Church, Duke Street.
- October 17th. St. Luke's Church consecrated by the Bishop of Liverpool. Rev. W. H. Marsden, M.A., appointed first vicar.
- October. A beautiful stained glass window, representing Our Lord's Last Supper, presented to Mornington Road Chapel by the Mayoress (Mrs. W. Sutton).

**1882**—October 24th to 26th. Seventh Curling Tournament won by Liverpool. Twenty-four rinks competed.

——November 1st. Municipal elections. West Ward (2), E. J. Rimmer (L), 368 ; W. Houghton, J.P. (C), 326 ; T. Karr (C), 322. Messrs. \*Ball (C) and \*M'Crossan (L) retired. Craven Ward (2), T. Harrison (L), 468 ; T. Tetlow (L), 420 ; \*J. Davenport (C), 419 ; T. Marshall (C), 392. \*Mr. Seth Moore (L) had retired. Messrs. Tetlow and Davenport each polled 419 votes, and the returning officer, after drawing lots, gave his vote to Mr. Tetlow. Talbot Ward (2), G. A. Pilkington (L) and \*G. H. Thorniley (C) unopposed. \*Mr. Atherton (L) retired. East Ward (2), \*W. Smallshaw (C), 244 ; \*T. Sherrat (C), 209 ; W. Kelk (L), 191. Scarisbrick Ward (1), J. H. A. Linaker (L), 212 ; T. R. Threlfall (I), 86. \*Mr. Lyon (L) retired. Hesketh Ward (1), \*P. Blundell (C), 151 ; T. Hosker (L), 103. Those marked \* were retiring members.

——November 9th. James Wood, Esq., LL.D., elected mayor.

——November. Rev. A. S. Welch ordained minister of Hawkshead Street Congregational Church.

——December 26th. Mr. T. W. Barker elected coroner for the division, *vice* Mr. C. E. Driffield resigned.

——December 28th. Died, aged 64, John Thorley, Esq., J.P., (C), one of the councillors for East Ward. For the vacancy, Mr. W. J. Robson (C) was elected.

——December 28th. The township divided into wards for Poor Law purposes. There were allotted two guardians each to West, Craven, Talbot, and East Wards ; and one

each to Hesketh, Scarisbrick, and Rural North Meols Wards; a total of eleven, a net increase of three guardians to the township. A third guardian was also given to Birkdale.

**1883**—January 20th. Died, aged 85, W. Atkinson, Esq., J.P., D.L. Mr. Atkinson was a native of Knaresborough, and was many years a cotton manufacturer in Preston. He lived at Ashton Heyes, Cheshire, and was in 1857 High Sheriff of that county. About 1862 he purchased Claremont House, which he soon after made his permanent residence. His generosity has had no parallel in Southport, although there have been many liberal residents amongst us. His various public gifts are mentioned, under their dates, in the previous pages.

—January 26th. Terrific hurricane, during which a large ship, the *Welbury*, 1,193 tons, in ballast from Liverpool to Cardiff, was driven ashore at Birkdale. She was got off a few weeks later, with little injury. Much damage was done in the town by the storm, and next day the barque *Atlantic*, of Norway, was wrecked at Ainsdale. During the high tides much wreckage was washed ashore from the ill-fated *City of Brussels*.

—March 7th. The Lancashire Congregational Union held its annual meeting at Southport. The Rev. John Chater was elected Chairman of the Union for the ensuing year.

—March 25th. Rev. S. Vincent preached his farewell sermons at Hoghton Street Baptist Chapel, having accepted the pastorate of a church at Plymouth.

1883—April 16th. Completion of the West Lancashire Railway. Traffic between Derby Road, Southport, and Blackburn commenced this day.

——April. During proceedings before the Committee of the House of Commons, the “Foreshore” dispute came to the front. Both the landowners and the Corporation opposed the Ribble Navigation Scheme, and as the *locus standi* of the Corporation was in doubt, the deputation, then in London, attempted to complete a bargain entered into some time before, and purchase the Foreshore from the Duchy of Lancaster; but, one morning, to their surprise, they found that the landowners had gone to the Duchy and purchased the land. The Duchy authorities admitted that the offer of the Corporation was as good as that of the landowners, but the sale to the latter “closed the door to litigation.” The Duchy had previously offered the land to the Corporation for £9,500, but required an additional £5,000 “to guarantee possession against litigation.” The price paid by the landowners was £15,000.

——April 26th. Government Inquiry *re* an application to borrow £30,000, to complete the sewerage system of the borough.

——May 12th. The Birkdale and Southport Tramway Company opened their line between London Square and Kew Gardens.

——May 14th. Rev. W. T. Bulpit laid the foundation stone of a new church at Crossens.

——July 2nd. St. Luke’s Station (Lancashire and Yorkshire) opened.



1883—July 25th. The twenty-seventh Annual Show of the Ormskirk, Southport, and Bootle Agricultural Society held on the Athletic Society's ground, Sussex Road.

—August. Rev. W. Perkins appointed to Leyland Road Wesleyan Chapel, *vice* Rev. Thos. Allen, who moved to Wesley Chapel, Birkdale, in succession to the Rev. Jacob Stephenson, B.A. On leaving Birkdale, Mr. Stephenson seceded from the Wesleyan Connexion, and was shortly afterwards ordained a minister of the Established Church.

—August. Rev. Canon Teebay, of St. Joseph's, Birkdale, appointed Rector of St. Joseph's R. C. College, Upholland.

—September. The Rev. Henry Greene, vicar of Banks, exchanged livings with the Rev. Thos. Cooper, M.A., of All Saints', Darlington.

—September. Birkdale School Board established. First members—Messrs. H. Mathwin, J. C. Barrett, T. S. Little, W. Warburton, S. Latham, and Doctors H. H. Vernon and F. Newsham.

—September 18th. The British Pharmaceutical Society held its annual meeting at Southport. Professor Attfield, president.

—September 20th. The British Association for the Advancement of Science held its 53rd meeting at Southport; Professor Cayley, president. There were 2,714 members' tickets issued, the receipts amounting to £3,369. Of the fifty-three meetings held, this ranked sixth in numbers and the third in receipts.

**1883**—September 23rd. Rev. J. J. Fitch commenced his pastorate at Hoghton Street Baptist Chapel.

——October 9th to 13th. Bazaar in aid of St. Luke's Church ("Y<sup>e</sup>Antiente Abbeye") realised £2,300.

——October 16th. Severe storms, which occasioned much damage to the Southport and Cheshire Lines Extension Railway works, and to the Promenade Extension.

——October 29th to 31st. Bi-annual Curling Tournament for the Holden Challenge Shield, won by the Hamilton Club. Twenty-four rinks competed.

——October 30th. The New Convalescent Hospital, built by the Cotton Famine Committee, at a cost of £30,000, opened by Lord Derby, K.G. Messrs. Paull and Bonella, of London and Manchester, were the architects.

——November 1st. Municipal Elections.—West Ward (2)—G. Smith (L) and T. Karr (C), unopposed, Messrs. \*Gregory (C) and \*Cockshott (C) retired. Craven Ward (2)—\*G. Hacking (L), 526; James Butterworth (L), 477; C. Bowcock (C), 315; \*Mr. Watson (C) left this ward to contest East Ward. Talbot Ward (2)—A. Pilling (L), 558, T. R. Threlfall (L), 550; J. Davenport (C), 436. Messrs. \*Betham (C) and \*Lawton (L) retired. East Ward (2)—\*J. Unwin (L) 266, \*W J. Robson (C), 239; R. Watson (C), 231. Scarisbrick Ward (1)—\*S. L. Booth unopposed. Hesketth Ward (1)—\*Vaughan (L), 154; R. Wright (C), 141. Those marked \* were retiring members.

——November 9th. Dr. Wood re-elected Mayor.

1883—December 11th and 12th. Terrific storm, which did immense damage in the town. The *Mermaid*, 1076 tons, of Cardiff, from Quebec to the Mersey with timber, wrecked on George's Bank. The crew (22) saved by the Lytham lifeboat.

—December 11th. After considerable negotiation the Corporation agreed to purchase from the landowners the Foreshore in front of the town for £10,085. The land in front of the present promenade (400 acres) is to have no buildings upon it except for recreational purposes—the remainder is practically unfettered by conditions.

—December 29th. Mr. T. W. Barker, county coroner, killed at Wigan, by a runaway steam tramcar.

1884—January 8th. Local Government inquiry *re* the proposed division of the Ormskirk Union, which was refused.

—January 14th. Mr. S. Brighthouse elected coroner, *vice* Mr. T. W. Barker, deceased.

—January 23rd. Southport Wholesale Corn and Produce Market established.

—January 26th to 28th. Terrific storms, during which two vessels were wrecked on this coast. On Sunday the 27th a vessel was seen in distress off the north end of the Horsebank. The lifeboat was launched, but was a long time before it could get alongside, which however it ultimately did, and rescued the crew, eleven in number. The carpenter had been washed overboard in the storm. The vessel proved to be the Norwegian barque *Björnstjerne Björnson*, 440 tons, from Charlestown to Liverpool with cotton. This vessel went to pieces. Next morning

another vessel was seen in distress off Birkdale Point. The lifeboat was taken out and with great difficulty launched. So great was the force of the waves that the lifeboat crew had to put out their anchors until the tide turned, after which they succeeded in getting a hawser aboard the vessel, which proved to be the *Nereus*, a barque of 1067 tons from Barrow for Queensland with a cargo of steel rails. The vessel had had the assistance of two steam tugs in attempting to get into the Mersey, but both had left her. The crew, twenty-five in number, were brought ashore by the lifeboat, and the vessel afterwards ran ashore at Birkdale, where she still remains. At the next assizes several men from Banks were convicted of wrecking at the Norwegian barque.

- January 30th. Died, aged 88, James Hardy Wrigley, Esq., J.P., D.L., who for half-a-century had been one of the leading citizens.
- February. The Liverpool, Southport and Preston Junction railway promoted. This is a line connecting the West Lancashire and the Southport and Cheshire Lines Extension Railways.
- February 6th. Councillor Hobson (L) resigned his seat for Scarisbrick Ward. Mr. Enoch Rimmer (L) elected his successor.
- March 2nd. A second census of religious worship taken in Southport and Birkdale. The number of attendants were, morning, Church of England, 6,254; Dissenters, 6,996; Roman Catholic, 1,409; total, 14,659. Evening, Church of England, 5,658; Dissenters, 6,674; Roman Catholic 806; total, 13,138. On this day the

Salvation Army had special services in Cambridge Hall and the drill shed. The morning attendance was 937, whilst those of the evening could not number less than 2,500. These figures are not included in those given above.

—March. Rev. Canon Clarke, D.D., appointed rural dean *vice* Rev. Canon Sheldon, deceased.

—April 15th to 17th. Champion Curling Tournament for the Holden Challenge Shield, won by Alloa, Prince of Wales Club. Twenty-one rinks competed.

—April 28th. Died, aged 61, C. E. Driffield, Esq., thirty-one years coroner for West Derby hundred.

—June 25th. The Rev. John Chater having completed twenty-one years ministry at the West End Congregational Church, the congregation in recognition presented him with a purse of gold to pay his expenses during a three months' holiday. They also paid the cost of the three months' "supplies."

—June 30th. At a Special Meeting of the Shareholders of the Southport and West Lancashire Bank, it was announced that the directors had entered into an agreement with the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company, by which the latter bank bought for £17,500 the buildings and good-will of the Southport and West Lancashire Bank. The called up capital of £48,000 had been sunk in the assets of the old bank, and it was necessary to make a further call of 30s. a share. After hearing the explanations of the directors the shareholders unanimously agreed to the seal of the Company being fixed to the agreement.

- 1884—July 14th. Great Orange demonstration in Meol's Hall grounds, of the Liverpool lodges. Fully 10,000 persons attended, and the proceedings were very enthusiastic throughout the day. In the evening, however, the conduct of many of the trippers was disgraceful in the extreme.
- July 27th. St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church, Birkdale, consecrated by Bishop O'Reilly, of Liverpool, who preached in the morning. The evening sermon was by the Right Rev. Dr. Vaughan, Bishop of Salford.
- September 1st. The Southport and Cheshire Lines Extension Railway opened. The shareholders and friends were entertained to luncheon at the Palace Hotel, and taken for a trip over the line.
- September 25th. A memorial tablet to the late Rev. Charles Hesketh, M.A., rector and lord of the manor, placed in the tower of the new All Saints' Institute by the Earl of Lathom.
- October 9th. Memorial Stone of St. Philip's Church laid by the Bishop of Liverpool. Architect, Mr. R. F. Tolson, of Manchester; builders, Wm. Brown and Sons, of Salford; estimated cost, £6,000. Rev. C. H. Hatfield, vicar-designate.
- October 10th. Died, aged 73, the Rev. James Abraham, formerly pastor of St. Marie's Church, Seabank Road. Deceased had been stationed in Southport and Birkdale thirty-four years.
- October 28th to 30th. Tenth Champion Curling Tournament for the Holden Challenge Shield. Nineteen

clubs competed. Won by the Manchester Rink, for the second time.

———October 29th to November 1st. "Anglo-Chinese" Bazaar on behalf of All Saints' Institute; result, £1330.

———November 1st. Municipal Elections. West Ward (2), J. Greenwood (C), 437 ; \*E. Vincent (C), 360 ; W. S. Middleton (L), 359 ; \*Mr. Parker (C) did not offer himself for re-election. Craven Ward (2), J. Davenport (C), 482 ; \*T. Pierce (C), 465 ; J. Dimond (L), 397 ; J. B. Jones (L), 365 ; \*Mr. Duxfield (L) did not offer himself for re-election. Talbot Ward (2), \*Dr. J. Wood, J.P. (L), and \*Mr. J. Sergeant (L), unopposed. East Ward (2), \*Mr. J. Marchbank (C) and \*Mr. W. Walker (C) unopposed. Scarisbrick Ward (1), \*E. Rimmer (L), 213 ; J. Neale (C), 169. Hesketh Ward (1), \*R. Johnson (C) unopposed. Those marked \* were retiring members.

———November 5th. The Birkdale and Southport Tramway opened to Brighton Road, Birkdale.

———November 10th. Dr. G. A. Pilkington elected mayor of Southport. Councillor S. L. Booth elected alderman, *vice* Mr. T. P. Griffiths, resigned.

———November 15th. Lawrence Townley, the keeper of a branch post-office, Eastbank Street, sentenced to six months' hard labour for embezzling moneys belonging to Her Majesty's Postmaster-General.

———November 15th. George Lucy, an old convict, arrested on several charges of burglary. Whilst under remand, the prisoner managed to loosen one of the bars of his cell, and early in the morning he crept through the



opening thus made—exactly six-and-a-half inches wide. A few hours later he was re-captured in Birkdale Sandhills, disguised as a sweep. On the wall of the cell, after his escape, was found written in pencil, “Go, and sin no more.” At the Quarter Sessions he was sentenced to ten years’ penal servitude.

——November 22nd. Mr. E. Hobson, J.P. (L), elected councillor for Scarisbrick Ward, *vice* Alderman Booth, by 241 votes, to 196 given to Mr. John Neale (C).

——December 29th. Alderman W. Smith, J.P., having been declared bankrupt, his seat in the Town Council became void. To fill the vacancy a special meeting of the Council was held, when Councillor Hacking (L) was elected by 19 votes to 13 given to Councillor Marchbank (C).

——December 29th. Rev. W. H. Dyson having accepted the pastorate of Zion Chapel, Wakefield, a farewell meeting was held on this date.

**1885**—January 19th. Died, aged 86, Thomas Part, Esq., one of the “Scarisbrick Trustees.”

——January 12th. Died, aged 46, Mr. Thomas Harrison, one of the councillors for Craven Ward. The establishment of the Southport Corn and Produce Market was due to Mr. Harrison’s efforts.

——January 14th. A New Year’s treat given to 550 poor children by Mrs. Pilkington (mayoress).

——January 14th. Municipal Election in Craven Ward. to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Hacking’s election to the Aldermanic bench. Result: Mr. Kilby (C), 437; Mr. Broome (L), 433.

- 1885—January 23rd. The Tramp Ward, Birch Street, opened by Mr. Councillor Pierce.
- January 29th. Craven Ward Election to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Harrison (L), Mr. Broome (L), 505 ; Mr. Bell (C), 340.
- January 29th. Died, aged 90, John King, the first man who signed the temperance pledge. John King was one of the "Seven wise men of Preston." He was employed many years on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, but in 1872 had to give up his work on account of failing eyesight. He was given the charge of a gate-house, and his temperance friends bought him an annuity of £40 per year.
- February 11th. Grand Fancy Dress Ball, at the Winter Gardens, in aid of the funds of the Infirmary. It was promoted by the Mayor (Dr. Pilkington), and resulted in £200 being handed over to the treasurer of the Infirmary.
- March 1st. Died suddenly, aged 55, Henry Lewis Gregory, Esq., J.P., the leading member of the Conservative party in the district.
- March 18th. The new Church of St. John, Crossens, consecrated by the Bishop of Liverpool.
- March 22nd. A service to the memory of General Gordon held in St. Andrew's Church. A collection made to defray the cost of a memorial window.
- March 30th. The Re-distribution of Seats Bill having conferred a member on the Southport Division, Mr. John E. Edwards-Moss was chosen as the Conservative candidate at the general election.

**1885**—April 4th. The burial ground attached to St. Cuthbert's Parish Church having been very much enlarged, the Bishop of Liverpool, on this date, consecrated the new portion.

—April 11th. The Mayor (Dr. Pilkington) gave a soiree to the working men of the borough and their wives.

—April 15th. Died suddenly, aged 62, Mr. Thomas Mellor, the leading architect of the town.

—April 24th. Memorial stones of new United Methodist Free Church, High Park, laid by the Mayoress (Mrs. Pilkington), Mrs. G. Mansell, Mrs. S. Higginbottom, and Mr. J. J. Barlow.

—May 20th to 23rd. Bazaar on behalf of St. Philip's Church. Result, £1250.

—May 30th. The Mayoress (Mrs. Pilkington) laid the memorial stone of the "Pilkington" Children's Ward at the Infirmary, Virginia Street.

—June 9th. The Mayor announced to the Council that he had decided to accept the invitation to become the Liberal candidate for the division.

—July 4th. Memorial stones of Birkdale Board Schools, Bury Road, laid by Dr. Vernon, Chairman of the Board.

—July 21st. The Royal Caledonian Curling Club held their annual meeting at Southport. The Champion Curling Tournament was held at the same time, the Challenge Shield being won by the Bolton Club.

—July 22nd. The Southport Improvement Act, empowering the Town Council to purchase the Fore-shore, passed.

- 1885—September 5th and following days. The Trades Union Congress held at Southport ; Mr. Councillor T R. Threlfall, president.
- October 12th. The Young Men's Christian Association, having purchased Devonshire Buildings, Eastbank Street, this day held an inaugural tea meeting.
- October 25th. The Gordon Memorial Window, at St. Andrew's Church, unveiled.
- November 2nd. Municipal Election. West Ward (2), Messrs. \*E. J. Rimmer, J.P., (L), and \*W. Houghton, J.P. (C), unopposed. Craven Ward (2), \*Mr. E. Broome (L), 576 ; Mr. W. Ashton (C), 500 ; \*Mr. T. Tetlow (L), 499. Talbot Ward (2), \*Dr. G. A. Pilkington (L), 677 ; \*Mr. G. H. Thorniley, J.P. (C), 596 ; Mr. J. Geddes (L), 522. East Ward (2), \*Mr. W. Smallshaw (C), 278 ; Mr. W. Macgregor (L), 256 ; \*Mr. T. Sherrat (C), 250. Scarisbrick Ward (1), \*Mr. Linaker (L), 215 ; Mr. J. Rimmer (I), 93. Hesketh Ward (1), Mr. R. L. Ascroft (L), 155 ; Mr. Thomas Wright (C), 142 ; \*Mr. P. Blundell (C), retired. Those marked \* were the old members of the Council.
- November 2nd. Fatal fire in Seabank Terrace, Seabank Road. An old lady, named Sarah Elizabeth Heywood, being alone in the house, by some means set her bed on fire, and was suffocated before she was discovered.
- November 9th. Councillor Unwin elected Mayor of Southport.
- December 4th. First election of a member of Parliament for the Southport Division of Lancashire. Result of the Poll—

G. A. Pilkington, Esq. (L) ..... 3,741

John E. Edwards-Moss, Esq. (C) ... 3,581

Liberal majority..... 160

**1886**—January. On New Year's Day, the Mayor and Mayoress entertained all the juvenile poor in Cambridge Hall. On January 8th, his Worship gave a Children's Fancy Dress Ball in the same building. Both events were thoroughly enjoyed. On the 17th September following, an album, containing the portraits of the children in fancy dress, was presented to the Mayor.

——January 27th. St. Philip's Church opened by the Bishop of Liverpool.

——February 20th. The shareholders of the Southport and Cheshire Lines Extension Railway elected Messrs. Gilroy and Craven directors, in place of Mr. Weld-Blundell and Mr. David Radcliffe, chairman and vice-chairman of the company.

——March 1st. Died, aged 46, Dr. D. Elias.

——March 22nd. Birkdale Board School, Bury Road, opened.

——March 20th. Soiree to the working men of Southport given by the Mayor.

——April 1st to 3rd. Champion Curling Tournament won by Bolton, which club thus secured the shield twice in succession.

——April 17th. Southport Habitation of the Primrose League established.

——April 26th. Died, aged 72, Alderman Samuel Boothroyd, J.P., "father of the Council." He had been resident in the town 52 years.

1886—April 27th. A testimonial presented to Dr. Pilkington, M.P., by the working men of the division.

——May 18th to 22nd. Bazaar in aid of St. Luke's Church. Result, £1,200.

——May 20th. Birkdale Habitation of the Primrose League founded.

——May 28th. Dr. Wood, J.P. (L), having been elected an alderman, *vice* Mr. Boothroyd, deceased, an extraordinary election took place in Talbot Ward with the following result: Mr. W. A. Duncan (C), 559; Mr. W. H. Holland (L), 500.

——June 7th. The Hon. G. N. Curzon chosen as the Conservative candidate for the forthcoming general election.

——June 16th to 18th. The National "St. Bernard" Dog Show held in Hesketh Park.

——June 25th. Died, aged 70, Ralph Fletcher, Esq., J.P., Chairman of the Petty Sessional Division.

——July 7th. Election of a Member of Parliament for the Southport Division of Lancashire.

Result—

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Hon. G. N. Curzon (C) ..... | 3,723 |
|-----------------------------|-------|

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| G. A. Pilkington, Esq. (L)..... | 3,262 |
|---------------------------------|-------|

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Conservative majority..... | 461 |
|----------------------------|-----|

——July 21st. The Ormskirk, Southport and Bootle Agricultural Society's Show held at Southport, on the Cemetery Road ground.

——July 23rd. High Park Primrose League Habitation founded.

- 1886**—July 31st. West Lancashire Railway Company in liquidation. Mr. E. Holden, Chairman of the Directors, appointed receiver.
- September. The Southport Channel buoyed by the Corporation.
- September 15th. Alderman Dr. Wood, J.P., married to Miss Garrett, daughter of the Rev. Charles Garrett.
- September 28th. The memorial stone of new Science and Art Schools and Museum, laid by the Mayor.
- October 13th. Bazaar opened on behalf of All Saints' Church.
- October 18th. Died, aged 53, Colonel Edward Fleetwood Hesketh, J.P., lord of the manor, and the last of the male line of Heskeths of North Meols.
- November 1st. Municipal Elections. West Ward, (2), S. Banister (C), 465, \*T. Karr (C), 462; \*G. Smith, (L), 391; J. Wareing (L), 385. Craven Ward (2), R. Watson, (C), 622; Dr. Moore (C), 588; J. Geddes (L), 581, \*J. Kilby, (L), 573; Mr. Butterworth retired. Mr. Kilby had been elected as a Tory, but had "returned to the Liberal fold." Talbot Ward (2), \*T. R. Threlfall (L), 698, \*A. Pilling (L), 694; J. G. Bayley (C). 644: B. Wilkinson (C), 636. East Ward, \*Mr. Unwin (L), and \*Mr. Robson (C) unopposed. Scarisbrick Ward (1), Mr. E. Hobson, J.P., (L), 308; Mr. J. Neale (C), 232. Hesketh Ward (1), \*Mr. W. Vaughan (L), 179; Mr. R. Wright (C), 163. Those marked \* were retiring members.
- November 2nd to 4th. Grand Curling Tournament won by the Southport rink. Twenty-three clubs competed.



**1886**—November. In lowering the sewer of West Street, consequent on the making of Scarisbrick Avenue, the workmen discovered an old road leading to the shore, nine feet below the level of the street.

——November 9th. Councillor Unwin re-elected Mayor. The election of Aldermen in place of Messrs. Sutton, Swire, Hacking, Booth and Wood, all Liberals who retired, resulted as follows. Councillor Smallshaw (C), 27 ; Councillor Marchbank (C), 18 ; Councillor Houghton (C), 18 ; ex-Alderman Sutton, (L), 15 ; ex-Alderman Wood (L), 15 ; ex-Councillor Sherrat (C), 15 ; ex-Alderman Hacking (L), 14 ; ex-Alderman Booth (L), 13, Councillor Vaughan, (L), 3 ; Councillor Johnson (C), 2. The Mayor gave his casting votes to the two retiring Aldermen, Sutton and Wood, who had tied with Mr. T. Sherrat. At the elections necessary to fill the vacancies caused by the election of the three first named Aldermen, the following was the result : West Ward (one vacancy), Mr. W. Crankshaw (C), 466 : Mr. Seth Rimmer (L), 456. East Ward (two vacancies), Mr. B. Wilkinson (C), 341 ; Mr. J. G. Bayley (C), 333 ; Mr. Henry Broadbent (L), 263.

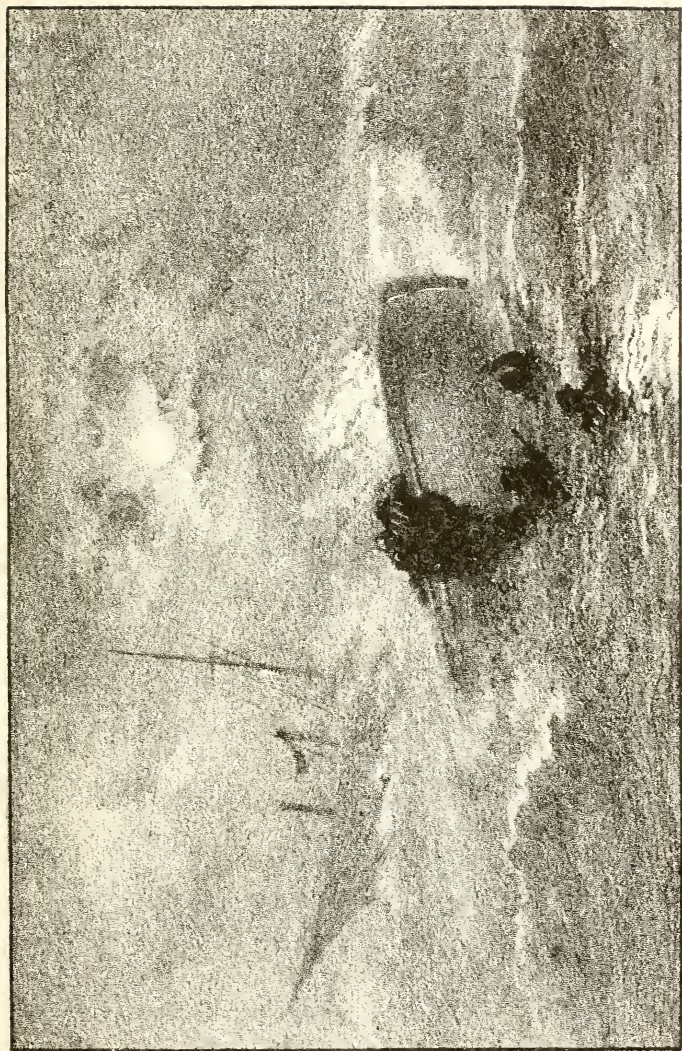
——November 12th. Terrible tragedy in Sefton Street, a girl named Maud Hamilton being shot dead by her sweetheart, Alfred Smith, who subsequently was sentenced to six months' hard labour for manslaughter.

——November 28th. Died, aged 42, the Rev. J. C. Wheeler, who had been curate in charge of St. Paul's Mission Church.

——November 29th. The Town Council decided to apply for borrowing powers to make a marine park and foreshore lake.

1886—December 6th. Died, aged 54, Councillor E. Broome (L). For the vacancy thus caused in Craven Ward, there was a contested election, which resulted as follows, Mr. Kilby (L), 633 ; Mr. Sherrat (C), 515.

—December 10th. Terrible disaster, which spread a gloom over the whole country. On the night of December 9th, whilst the Mayor was giving a grand *conversazione* and dance in celebration of his re-election as Mayor, a fearful storm was raging on the sea. Signals of distress were seen, and the Southport lifeboat was got out. She was taken along the shore to near the boundary of Ainsdale, and when opposite to the vessel in distress she was launched, containing a brave crew of sixteen men, of whom only two ever came back to tell the story. After struggling with the waves about two hours, the gallant crew had got nearly alongside the distressed vessel, and had loosened the anchor ready, when an immense wave, in nautical language called “a green sea,” rose like a wall besides them, and struck the boat, filling and sinking it. She rose again, but keel uppermost, and failed to right herself. Some of the crew stuck to her, others were never seen again alive. She had capsized in seventeen or eighteen feet of water, and afterwards drifted on to the coast. Most of the men were too benumbed to help themselves ; but two of them, Henry Robinson and John Jackson, managed to make their way home and give the alarm. Another, John Ball, was found alive but insensible, and he never recovered consciousness. The bodies of the remaining members of the crew were found near the boat. The St. Anne’s Lifeboat men had also seen



LIFEBOAT DISASTER



the signals, and had gone on the same errand of mercy. Not one of this crew lived to tell the story of the night. Near noon, next day, two gentlemen were walking near the wreck, when they noticed something like the keel of a boat in the water. By the aid of a telescope it was seen to be a lifeboat, but where from could not be seen. Two hours elapsed before the boat could be reached, and in the meantime five bodies had been found in the neighbourhood, each wearing a lifeboatman's belt. On the boat being reached, it was found to be that of St. Anne's, with three other bodies under it. The mast, sails, anchors, &c., were missing, and not a sign to show of how the disaster had happened. It was conjectured that the boat had capsized, with sails set, when turning the corner of Spencer's bank, the sails and mast afterwards being found in that neighbourhood. The wrecked vessel was the *Mexico*, of Hamburg, the crew of which, twelve in number, were rescued by the Lytham Lifeboat. The twenty-seven gallant men, who lost their own lives in attempting to save those of their fellow creatures, were as follows :—Charles Hodge, coxswain of the Southport Lifeboat ; Ralph Peters, second coxswain ; Henry Hodge, Thos. Spencer, Thos. Jackson, John Robinson, Richard Robinson, Benjamin Peters, Peter Wright, Timothy Rigby, Peter Jackson, Thomas Rigby, Henry Rigby, and John Ball. The above were members of the crew of the *Eliza Fernley*, the Southport Lifeboat, who lost their lives. The crew of the *Laura Janet*, the St. Anne's Lifeboat, were the following :—W. Johnson, coxswain ; James Johnson, Charles Tims, Reuben Tims, Oliver Hodson,

James Harrison, Thomas Parkinson, Nicholas Parkinson, James Dobson, Thomas Bonney, James Bonney, Richard Fisher, and James Wignall. The feeling excited throughout the nation was shown by the fact that within a fortnight thirty thousand pounds were subscribed to meet the wants of the bereaved families ; in fact, much more could have been had, but the committee, having sufficient, cried, " Hold ! enough."

———December 16th. Died, aged 54, Alderman William Houghton, J.P.



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